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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support letting the CNMI government borrow money to pay off its \$231.6 million debt with the Retirement Fund?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

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Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Sure Hit

Harry Potter has conjured up a record-breaking witching hour.

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US House OKs submerged lands bill

Local leaders:
Victory for people of the CNMI



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

"This is an important victory for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. We had always believed the lands and waters around our islands were our own. ...Now we have taken a giant step toward placing those lands back in the hands of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, where ownership rightfully belongs."

—Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

With a unanimous vote of 416-0, the U.S. House of Representatives resoundingly approved yesterday a bill giving the Northern Mariana Islands control over its submerged lands—a development described by local leaders as a “victory for the people of the CNMI.”

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Hickeys lead to capture of female escapee

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A policeman's instinct made possible the recapture of a female juvenile detainee during entrapment operations at her boyfriend's house in Kagman at dawn yesterday.

Police spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said that officer Jesse Concepcion found the 15-year-old female suspect hiding under a small table covered with a tablecloth inside her boy-

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Christopher Weden of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 points to one of the boxes of hazardous chemicals and containers at the collection site in the Koblerville Fire Station yesterday. The ongoing pesticide amnesty program has been met with great success, with about 12 containers and six boxes of hazardous materials collected on Saipan alone. See **story on Page 2**.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Registered voters tally jump 14.5K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The number of people who want to vote in this November's general election

jumped this month, with a little over a thousand more registering compared to last month's figure.

Latest statistics posted by the Commonwealth Election Commission on

its Web site yesterday showed that, as of July 13, there are now a total of 14,517 registered voters in the Commonwealth. On June 10, the number

See **VOTERS** on Page 4



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Local

EPA: Huge turnout in pesticide amnesty program

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 official who is supervising the collection of hazardous materials in the CNMI is glad at the community's response to the ongoing pesticide amnesty program.

Christopher Weden of the EPA Emergency Response Section-Superfund Program said the huge turnout exceeded their expectations.

"We were pessimistic at first if we are able to gather but as you can see, it seems this is a

huge success," he said.

As of 12pm yesterday, there were about 12 containers and six boxes of hazardous materials collected on Saipan.

These were collected from the two sites the Division of Environmental Quality set up at the Koblerville Fire Station and the Kagman Agricultural Station.

The amnesty program will be held on Rota today at the collection site inside the Sunset Villa property.

Collection on Tinian will be held tomorrow at the Department of Public Works grounds.

The collected hazardous materials

are being stored in a 40-foot container and will be shipped next week to Guam, where these would be consolidated with the collected items there before being transported to a storage and treatment facility in California.

Some of the hotels that turned over their waste included Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Resort and Spa and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The pesticide amnesty disposal program collects pesticide and related hazardous waste that require disposal due to age, condition of containers, contamination, no labels, unregistered or cancellation.

Female worker arrested for alleged prostitution

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

An overstaying female guest worker was arrested for alleged prostitution, according to Department of Public Safety public information officer Jason T. Tarkong.

The suspect is now detained at the Department of Corrections.

Police report showed that around 6pm on July 13, officer

Daniel Quitugua was on routine patrol near the Hafadai Beach Hotel when he noticed an Asian female talking to three Caucasian males.

Suspicious, Quitugua parked his patrol car and monitored the female while she walked with the men and talked to them.

They then paused in front of Hard Rock Café intersection and continued talking before the suspect walked away and crossed the intersection toward Bank of Guam.

Quitugua continued to watch the three men as they went toward Mom's Round Two Restaurant.

He then questioned the men, who told them that the woman offered them a "special massage" for \$60 and in exchange for sex. Quitugua also learned that the suspect told the men to meet her at a pre-disclosed location and she would have someone pick them up.

Quitugua immediately looked for the suspect and found her at the Golden Harvest Store in Garapan. She was arrested and detained.

Tarkong said the suspect apologized to Quitugua for her action and admitted being an illegal alien because her permit is already expired.

Probation, Parole, Corrections Officers' Week starts today

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Supreme Court Justice Miguel S. Demapan are encouraging all citizens of the CNMI to honor and recognize the achievements of Probation, Parole and Community Corrections officers during a weeklong celebration from July 19 to 25.

Fitial and Demapan will sign a proclamation for the 9th Annual Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week at 9am today at the Supreme Court lobby where the officers and their service providers will hold exhibits featuring law enforcement related activities.

Probation officers John Del Rosario and organizing com-

mittee chair Gregory Arriola said this activity is not only held in the CNMI but across the United States and its territories, with this year's theme "A Force For Positive Change."

Similar activities will also be brought to Tinian and Rota this year. Both islands did not hold exhibits last year.

The community service providers participating in this year's activities include the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Community Guidance Center and other agencies. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

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Our reality in Rota; we need positive and progressive Changes and Change we must! **I pledge to you, my independence, my ability to think positively, innovative approach to problem-solving and my undying desire to help make a difference for the people of Rota!** These, my fellow voters are the basic foundations which move, motivate and push me to seek your vote of confidence for a seat in the 13th Municipal Council for Rota.

13th Rota Municipal Council

10 projects vie for \$1.3M HUD block grant funds

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Ten projects are competing for the \$1.3 million community development block grant available to the CNMI this program year 2009.

Saipan Tribune learned that majority of these proposed undertakings are on Saipan while Rota and Tinian each have two.

Topping the funding requests is the proposal of the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association to establish the islands' first football complex in Kobleville.

Saipan Southern High School submitted a plan to build an instructional pool, while the Northern Marianas College asked for funds for the rehabilitation of its building X.

Also under review is a proposal to build a Carolinian Cultural Center, a marine demonstration center in Paupau, and further development of the NMI-Japan Cultural Center in Garapan.

On Tinian and Rota, the projects being pushed for federal funding include basketball courts at the Carolinas Heights, Marpo

Heights, and West Side San Jose, plus the rehabilitation of the Little League baseball field on Tinian.

According to Jeannie Mafnas, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. grant writer, a selection committee will evaluate all proposals for the board's approval. She refused to disclose each project's funding request, pending the board's action.

The CDBG program, administered by the housing corporation, was initiated by U.S. Housing and Urban Development to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities for families with low to moderate income.

NMHC, based on its action plan to be submitted to the federal agency, disclosed that there are over 700 families on the

housing program's wait list.

To fight the "barriers to affordable housing," NMHC said it intends to develop a housing market study in the CNMI as part of its five-year action plan.

"This market study will determine the current housing conditions and trends. The number of households, households inventory, housing vacancies, sales market condition by districts, and other pertinent census information will be part of the market study," NMHC stated, adding that the market study will give a better picture of what the current housing conditions look like so that it can identify ways to improve these conditions.

NMHC, it added, will also communicate with other government agencies to eliminate regulatory barriers such as the length of the permitting process

and to work with contractors so that they are given current information on HUD preconstruction requirements.

Based on documents obtained by Saipan Tribune, the local housing agency is expecting about \$6.6 million in Hous-

ing and Urban Development grants for program year 2009. These include the \$1.386 million CDBG allocation.

It expects to receive \$62,844 under the emergency shelter grant; \$2.3 million for Section 8's housing assistance allocation, and \$1.2 million for new construction.

CNMI-NMHC also expects to receive \$647,474 under the HOME allocation.

Yumul hints of possible run for senatorial post

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, hinted yesterday of a possible run for a senatorial position under the Republican Party.

Yumul, however, emphasized that he will make a decision in due time whether he will seek re-election as a House representative or try for a Senate seat.

"I am looking at all options to include higher office," said Yumul, who has been successively elected thrice as a House representative.

At this time, he said his focus is on the government's budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and the government's obligation to the Retirement Fund.

"As far as I know and understand, my term at the Legislature expires next year. So I have to work to provide service to the community. I will make that decision [to seek another elected position] in due time," Yumul said.



Yumul

He said his decision as to when he will make his announcement will depend on Republican Party chairman Ed Tenorio's deadline.

In 2008, Yumul expressed his intention to file his candidacy for a Delegate seat to the U.S. Congress. He later dropped out of the race in view of his military duties. Yumul is a reservist with the U.S. Army. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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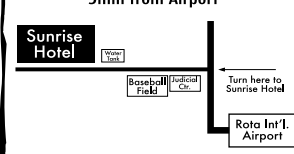
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Inos raises concerns on pension bond initiative



MARIANAS BOY SCOUTS

Marianas District Island Boy Scouts of America chair David Sablan, third from left, congratulates new District Director Carlitos Reyes during a visit to Sablan's office early this week. Also in photo are John Mills, director of Pacific Basin Scouting-Aloha Council; Mark B. Mendiola, district executive Chamorro District Guam; Jeff Emmanuel, Guam Scouts; and Natahli Mills, Venturer Scouts Crew 423. The group is currently preparing activities for the rest of the year.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

HICKEYS

From Page 1

friend's bedroom.

The 16-year-old boyfriend was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice and harboring a fugitive.

The female suspect had escaped on Sunday, July 12, from the Division of Youth Services' juvenile detention facility in Kagman III. It was her second escape, following her first while undergoing treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center on July 6.

Tarkong said that police had visited the boyfriend on Monday and warned him about harboring a fugitive but he had denied meeting her.

On July 14, police detectives again followed up on leads about the female juvenile and visited the boyfriend anew.

Again, he denied meeting the suspect.

However, police noticed that he had hickeys on his neck, which made them suspicious. When police asked him about the hickeys, the boyfriend finally admitted having been with her around 1am that day.

He then told police that he dropped off the suspect at an abandoned house in Kagman II, some 15 minutes before the detectives arrived. He offered to help and even escorted the police to the location where he said he dropped off the suspect.

Tarkong said that, after continued questioning by the police, they noticed that he was untruthful with his statements because he kept changing details of his story.

He later admitted that the suspect was at his residence when the police had arrived.

Yesterday, police received a tip that the female fugitive had arrived again at her boyfriend's house around 3:30am.

Responding police officers set up an entrapment operation and convinced the boyfriend's father to allow them to search the house.

Officer Jesse Seman knocked on the boyfriend's bedroom door and it took the boy awhile to answer the door.

Police did not immediately find the suspect inside. Instead, the boyfriend told them that he made contact with the suspect that night but she would be back.

Officer Jesse Concepcion checked the boyfriend's bedroom again and noticed a small table in the bedroom covered with a tablecloth. He lifted the tablecloth and that's where he found the fugitive, hiding under the table.

The two were immediately arrested.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has raised some concerns on the initiative to allow the government to borrow \$200 million to pay its debt to the Retirement Fund as it does not provide clear instructions on several matters.

In a news briefing yesterday, acting Gov. Eloy Inos said the administration will discuss its concerns with members of the Senate and the House before the Legislature finalizes action on the initiative.

The House of Representatives approved the initiative on Monday. It is now pending in the Senate.

"It is very important to talk to them [lawmakers] before they take final action [on the initiative]," Inos said.

He said one concern is the amendment that will require a reduction in the total number of employees every year until the total cost for personnel is not more than 60 percent of total resources.

"Our concern there is that the reduction is essentially boldly defined and

does not include reduction in the number of teachers, medical doctors and so forth. We need to resolve that issue," he said.

A related issue, Inos said, is the cap on personnel costs—60 percent of available resources.

"What is the plan for the remaining 40 percent of the resources? Where is it supposed to go and supposed to be allocated?" he asked.

At the same time, Inos pointed out that the initiative only allows the CNMI government to have the legal authority to borrow.

"Under the current constitutional provision we cannot borrow," he said. "As to when we will borrow or whether we will borrow at all is a matter that we have to discuss later. Obviously legislation will permit it but most important is the feasibility," Inos said.

The initiative seeks to add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds. The move is intended to allow the government to raise the \$200 million it needs to pay its debt with the Retirement Fund.

VOTERS

From Page 1

was only over 13,500.

The commission believes that the increase was due to the aggressive campaigns of candidates during the primary poll of the local Republican Party on June 30.

There are still over two months to the registration deadline on Sept. 18.

Of the total 14,517 registered voters in July, a big bulk are from the three villages in the first election district.

Election District 1 posted 3,977 voters as of Monday, broken down into San Vicente, 2,250; Koblerville, 982; and San Antonio, 745.

Election District 3 got the next biggest block of registered voters at 3,007. Of that number, 2,227 are from Gapan and 780 are from Oleai.

Kagman, which belong to Election District 5, had 2,111 voters as of

Monday.

Election District 2, which covers Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas, has so far 1,096 registered voters.

The commission recorded a total of 1,590 voters in Election District 4. These are shared by Tanapag, 578; San Roque, 521; Capital Hill, 391; and Northern Islands, 100.

Tinian has so far a total of 1,292 registered voters while Rota has 1,444.

More than two months to the registration deadline, the commission is expecting even more people to register in the next few weeks. The commission expects to exceed its 15,000 target.

There are four teams vying for the government's top two positions—incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos under the Covenant Party; Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios under the Republican Party; and the independent tandems of Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho, and Ramon Guerrero and David Borja.

US HOUSE

From Page 1

The bill's passage is also a milestone in Commonwealth history, being the first legislation introduced by the CNMI's first representative to the U.S. Congress, Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

"This is an important victory for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. We had always believed the lands and waters around our islands were our own—until the U.S. courts ruled otherwise," said Sablan in a statement.

In a news briefing yesterday, acting Gov. Eloy Inos said this development is definitely "a victory for the Commonwealth."

Senate President Pete Reyes echoed this, describing it as "wonderful news."

Sablan's bill, H.R. 934, will give the CNMI ownership of up to three miles of its submerged lands. The bill must still pass the U.S. Senate and be signed by President Obama before it becomes law.

Considering, however, the unanimous support it received in the U.S. House, Sablan said this shows the bill faces little opposition and should move steadily through the legislative process.

"For at least 3,500 years the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people have lived on these islands and fished and sailed

in the waters around them. These lands and waters have always been an integral part of our existence, essential to our well-being and livelihood, and to our sense of who we are," Sablan said.

"Now we have taken a giant step toward placing those lands back in the hands of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, where ownership rightfully belongs," he said.

Supporters

During the debate, Sablan thanked Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) for her leadership on the bill and on the "many matters pertaining to the insular areas and to the Marianas Archipelago Islands that we represent here in Congress."

Bordallo held a hearing on the bill in February and managed the bill on the floor Tuesday.

Sablan spoke at length during the debate about the bill and the backing it has from the leadership and the CNMI people.

Sablan entered into the official record of the U.S. House a letter of joint support from Gov. Benigno Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes, and House Speaker Arnold Palacios. A letter of support from the Friends of the Monument was also added to the record.

Sablan said it is the understanding of all parties that the legislation gives

the CNMI the same ownership rights over the submerged lands surrounding the CNMI islands as are possessed by Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

He said it is also understood that after this bill is enacted into law, the people of the CNMI will have an option of exercising full control over the submerged lands surrounding the three islands or deciding to include those submerged lands within the Monument under co-management with the responsible federal agencies.

Lengthy talks

Inos said the bill was something the Fitial administration, Senate President Reyes, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, and Sablan discussed lengthily when Sablan was recently on island.

Inos said the amendment that Sablan inserted in the legislation was to make sure the CNMI will be able to co-manage the submerged lands within the three-mile jurisdiction of the Marianas Marine Monument.

"It essentially acknowledges and recognizes the agreement and the proclamation that President Bush signed with respect to the Marine Monument," Inos said. "So we went in full support of that. That's one issue that we were really unified."

He said going out farther than the

three-mile jurisdiction is something the CNMI would like to see in the future.

Reyes lauded Sablan's first accomplishment as delegate.

"It was so quick because he just got elected. And we have been waiting for this for a long time," Reyes said. "This is a wonderful legacy for Kilili because proves that, as the newest member of the U.S. Congress, he is respected and his colleagues take him seriously."

The senator said he, Gov. Benigno Fitial, and Palacios got together to push for the inclusion of the amendment.

"This goes to prove that when we have unity... when we are united in our position, they take us seriously," Reyes said.

Legislative priority

Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WVA), chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, was among those who praised the House's action.

"Passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of this submerged lands legislation was among the highest legislative priorities of the first-ever delegate from the CNMI—my friend and colleague, Gregorio Kilili Sablan," Rahall said.

He praised Sablan "for the hard work he has undertaken over the past several months to advance his first introduced bill, achieve the unanimous legisla-

tive victory, and ensure that these submerged lands are rightfully conveyed to the people of the CNM."

Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said it is good bill that some of them have worked on for years to ensure that the submerged lands are where they belong, that the ownership is there, and that the rights that accrue to that attain to the NMI.

Flake was an original co-sponsor of H.R. 934. He has visited CNMI.

"I just want to welcome the gentleman from the NMI to this Chamber. We're glad he's here in Congress where he belongs," Flake said.

The bill's passage is a sweet victory for the Commonwealth after it lost the case when it took the submerged lands issue to court. On Feb. 25, 2005, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court ruling that the submerged lands surrounding the CNMI do not belong to the people of the islands but were the property of the U.S.

The CNMI has argued that, in entering into the Covenant of Political Union with the U.S., the CNMI did not give up any rights and title to the submerged lands.

H.R. 934 effectively reverses the court ruling in favor of the Northern Marianas.

The CNMI's submerged lands are believed to contain rich marine and other natural resources.

Help for those eligible to get \$250 stimulus payments

WASHINGTON, DC—Persons who believe they were eligible for one-time \$250 checks as part of the federal economic recovery program should contact the offices of Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), if they have not received the money.

The one-time payments go to Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Veterans Disability and

Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries who were eligible for benefits in between November 2008 and January 2009.

The payments also go to persons who received a VA compensation pension, dependency and indemnity compensation, or spina bifida benefits during the same time period.

"\$250 is a lot of money and

we want to make sure everyone who is entitled to this payment gets it," Sablan said. "Our office is here to help."

Sablan met with Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue at Sablan's Capitol offices in April

for a briefing on the payments. Astrue assured Sablan that the recovery checks would all reach the Northern Mariana Islands in May.

However, the congressman's office has been contacted by at least one

eligible Social Security recipient who did not receive payment.

With the possibility of similar issues occurring with the recovery payments in the Northern Marianas, Sablan is encouraging others who may be eligible for the stimulus checks but have not received them to contact his office for assistance.

Veterans should have received their recovery payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA distributed checks on June 22-June 30.

The payments were made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congress passed in February.

To contact the Delegate's office call 670.323.2647/8 or visit: <http://sablan.house.gov/contact/index.shtml>. (PR)

Regents set new goals for NMC's president

'Accreditation, relationship with employees top expectations'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College board of regents on Wednesday approved a new set of goals and objectives for Dr. Carmen Fernandez, which will be the basis of her performance evaluation next year.

For school year 2009-2010, the board identified four key areas they want the president to focus on: accreditation, communication, human resources, and the Rota and Tinian instructional sites.

The board renewed Fernandez's contract in May, giving her a four-year term as college president, with her performance to be assessed every year.

On top the board's new expectations are her work on the college's accreditation and progress in her communication and relationship with staff and employees.

"The president will continue to oversee institutional adherence to the standards of the accrediting commissions to ensure continuing accreditation of the college," the board's decision stated.

The college only just got out from show-cause status after failing to address concerns

of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 2007. The accrediting body reaffirmed NMC's accreditation only this month.

Interpersonal skills

During the special board meeting, the regents directed Fernandez to continue to develop, improve, and enhance her interpersonal skills to ensure open channels of communications within and outside the college.

Expected results in this area include establishing rapport with employees and developing smooth working relationship with campus groups.

"Regularly soliciting input and feedback [through NMC's governance structure or otherwise] from campus constituent groups on major and important matters and decisions" will build a strong communication lines with staff and students, the board said.

They also want Fernandez to maintain "objectivity" and be effective in resolving conflicts and forge effective and mutually beneficial relationships with the groups.

An effective college president, they said, also needs to put in place steps to improve NMC's image.

'Revised policies for personnel'

The board said Fernandez is also expected to modernize, clarify, strengthen, and follow policies in managing NMC's most im-

portant assets—its personnel.

She is required to submit to the board recommendations for new and revised human resource policies and administrative procedures that include effective staff evaluation.

The continuation of professional development opportunities for employees must be maintained, as well as the con-

tinuing education program to raise awareness and understanding of HR policies.

Although NMC's accreditation has been reaffirmed, the decision to close its instructional sites on Rota and Tinian will remain, according to the board. However, the regents want to study the feasibility of reviving academic and nonacademic

courses at these sites.

Since last year, only special programs are offered at both sites such as the Commonwealth Development Institute, Adult Basic Education Program, and CREES.

The board wants both sites to still be included in all aspects of planning, program review, assessment, and resource allocation.



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By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Next week, July 22, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible from within a narrow corridor that traverses half of Earth. Although it won't be seen in its entirety in the CNMI, sun watchers in the Marianas will still see a partial eclipse, with the shadow of the moon obscuring part of the sun's disc.

The path of the total eclipse will traverse across the North Pacific Ocean and will include the 14 islands of the CNMI.

The first contact is expected to happen at 11:24pm and will totally disappear at about 2:15pm.

On Saipan, the maximum eclipse would be around 12:53pm, with an obscuration of 77.1 percent. On Tinian, the maximum eclipse would be around 12:53pm, with an obscuration of 76.2 percent. Rota residents will see the maximum eclipse at 12:53pm, with a 72.1 percent obscuration.

According to the NASA Web site, the path of the Moon's umbral shadow will begin in India and cross through Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and China. After leaving mainland Asia, the path will cross Japan's

Ryukyu Islands and curve south-east through the Pacific Ocean where the maximum duration of totality reaches 6 minutes 39 seconds. A partial eclipse will be seen within the much broader path of the Moon's penumbral shadow, which includes most of eastern Asia, Indonesia, and the Pacific Ocean.

The last time the CNMI experienced a solar eclipse was the annular solar eclipse on June 11, 2002.

An eclipse of the sun occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun and for a short period of time blocks the Sun from view. Rarely, the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon and this is referred to as a total eclipse. When only a part of the sun is blocked from view, the event is known as a partial eclipse. The June 11, 2002, event was a special kind of partial eclipse known as an annular eclipse, where the moon blocks out all but a small outer rim of the sun.

The public is urged not to look directly at a solar eclipse without proper eye protection.

In a notice it issued during the 2002 eclipse, the Department of Public Health warned that at no time during the eclipse will it be safe to look at the sun.

"The sun will lose much of its light intensity during the eclipse and it may seem safe to look at the sun during this time. Unfortunately, the damaging rays from the sun will be unaffected by the eclipse and can cause serious damage to the eyes. Looking at an eclipse for even one minute or less without eye protection can cause permanent eye damage, including blindness," the DPH advisory stated.

Hofschneider says reviving economy is top priority if re-elected to post

If re-elected to his post, Tinian Sen. Jude Hofschneider said his priority will be to revive the ailing economy of the CNMI.

Hofschneider said he is seeking re-election under the Republican Party and that his priority is working with his colleagues in the Legislature to improve the economy.

He underscored the need to change C N M I policies to make them more industrial friendly

in order to revive the "very depressed" economy the Commonwealth is facing right now.

The senator said his other priority is to make the government fulfill its obligations to its employees by paying their compensation and other benefits under the law.

The Senate Floor leader said there is also a need to revisit the government's hiring policy. (Ferdie dela Torre)



Hofschneider

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Fiesta Resort completes renovation of resto row

A veritable feast—literally and figuratively—awaits anyone who dines at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's newly renovated restaurant row at the northern end of the Garapan landmark.

Literally a feast because, for the first time, starting Monday, July 20, the resort's four restaurants—Mai, World Café, Teppanyaki, and The Bund—are now located in a centralized site.

Fiesta Resort F&B Manager Das Krishnan said those pining for Japanese cuisine can dine at Mai, while those with a yen for Continental fare can opt for World Café. If you're looking for seared perfection then Teppanyaki is the outlet for you, while The Bund will be a joy for Chinese food lovers.

All restaurants are open breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a la carte offerings, while World Café builds on Fiesta Resort's smorgasbord tradition by offering daily lunch buffets.

As always, Fiesta Resort's lunch buffet adopts a theme for every day of the week—Monday is Korean, Tuesday is Japanese, Wednesday is Chinese, Thursday is international/teppanyaki, Friday is seafood, Saturday is family, and Sunday is, what else, the best Sunday Brunch.

Food for thought

The Bund's a la carte items range

from the jellyfish with century egg appetizer to braised superior shark's fin in brown sauce.

Teppanyaki's expert chefs, meanwhile, serve up all-time hits like ohitashi (seasonal green vegetables with soy sauce), ikura oroshi (salmon roe with grated radish), and assorted seafood (prawns, scallops, salmon).

Mai Restaurant, meanwhile, offers a menu that includes its hot pot set, tempura don, kitsune soba, and assorted sashimi.

World Café complements its buffet with a la carte dishes like broiled codfish with miso flavor and rib eye steak with Japanese sauce.

Renovation

Krishnan said that Fiesta Resort is better than ever after recently completing its six-figure restaurant row renovation.

“That's why aside from a feast because of the food, Fiesta Resort's restaurant row is also now, figuratively, a feast for the eye,” he said.

The facelift took two months to finish and entails new layouts, including a Zachiki for an authentic Japanese dining experience. It also features comfortable booths and seating arrangements with drop lightings.

“The improvements could not have come at a better time as the demand for our service has never been greater,” said Krishnan.

The Bund, Mai, World Café, and Teppanyaki are open daily, Monday through Sunday, from 7am to 10pm. For reservations, contact Verlyn or Socorro at the F&B office at 234-7171 Ext. 1547. *(Saipan Tribune)*

CONTACT INFO

Open daily, 7am-10pm
For reservations, contact
Verlyn or Socorro, 234-7171
Ext. 1547



ROSELYN MONROYO

The newly renovated restaurant row of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan features a spanking new entrance.



ROSELYN MONROYO

The teppanyaki station is popular among the restaurants' diners.

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This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Continental to resume Guam-Osaka flights

HAGATÑA, Guam—Continental Micronesia will restart its non-stop flights from Guam to Osaka's Kansai Airport beginning Dec. 23, 2009, according to a statement issued by the airline yesterday.

The direct Guam-Kansai flights will operate daily by the airline's Boeing 737-800 fleet, each aircraft with a total of 155 seats, including 14 business class seats and 141 economy class seats.

Continental Micronesia first started operating direct Guam-Kansai flights on Sept. 4, 1994, when the Kansai Airport was newly opened, but suspended

service on Oct. 1, 2003.

With the reintroduction of the Guam-Kansai direct service, Continental Airlines will increase its service from the current eight to nine cities in Japan:

ON THE NET

www.continental.com

GUAM-KANSAI FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Flight	Frequency	Departing	Arriving
CO977	Daily	Guam 7:10am	Kansai 9:55am
CO978	Daily	Kansai 11am	Guam 3:30pm

Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Okayama, Hiroshima and Fukuoka.

"I am pleased that we are able to reintroduce the Guam-Kansai service after six years of its suspension," said Charles

Duncan, managing director of the Asia-Pacific Sales & Marketing for Continental Airlines. "The Guam-Kansai route will mark the ninth city Continental Airlines provides service in Japan. We look forward to providing customers in the Kansai area with Continental's new services not only to Guam, but also to various resort destinations via Guam such as Saipan, Palau and Cairns."

"We have been steadily operating charter flights from Kansai to Guam since 2006, during the busy summer peak season, and have been paying close at-

tention to the Kansai market," said Toru Takahashi, director of Japan Sales for Continental Airlines. "We are pleased to restart the Kansai-Guam service starting in December 2009, with enough prospects in the market throughout the year. We would like to thank our business partners in the travel trade industry and Kansai Airport for their great support and cooperation to make this restart possible."

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, go to continental.com. (PR-Continental)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 17, 2000

Cabrera surrenders

Former Finance Sec. Antonio R. Cabrera turned himself in last Friday and appeared in the U.S. District Court to answer theft and bribery charges filed against him by the federal government. He pleaded not guilty to all five counts based on the indictment that was handed down by a grand jury a day before. Judge Alex R. Munson set his bail at \$100,000 secured bond, which he has to produce by Wednesday. Cabrera, 40, surrendered to federal authorities with his lawyer Joseph A. Arriola after Judge Munson issued a warrant for his arrest with initial fixed bail at \$200,000 for his temporary freedom. He is scheduled to appear in court again on September 18.

House wants Teno to hire lobbyists

The House of Representatives has initiated steps to prod Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to use his spending power in order to seek funding for a lobbying campaign in the U.S. Congress against legislation affecting the CNMI. A joint resolution calling immediate hiring of a lobbyist was adopted during a special session last Friday which now heads to the Senate for a similar action. Although it has no force of law, HJR 12-12 is the first formal request by lawmakers to the administration to fund the campaign amid several attempts in Washington D.C. to pass measures that will impact the Commonwealth.

July 17, 2001

CNMI warned of deeper crisis in 2004

The Strategic Economic Development Council has sounded the alarm against further collapse of the CNMI economy, which is anticipated to happen between now and the year 2004. This, as SEDC-Destination Enhancement Committee Chair Marian Aldan-Pierce urged government officials and business leaders to "work together to alleviate a disaster just waiting to happen." She warned that over a thousand government employees will be out of job if the SEDC's recommendations, submitted to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in December 2000, were not implemented. "And this does not take into account the ripple effect it will have on the private sector. And this may happen three years from now," Aldan-Pierce told a recent conference on women.

'...but not going bananas'

Stung by news reports that the Commonwealth economy is going down the drain, the Tenorio administration has issued a statement saying that, through admittedly not rosy, the overall economic picture is not that bad. "Recent media stories relating to the CNMI government finances, economy and employment contained incomplete and highly inaccurate information. This statement is presented to clarify the CNMI's current financial status," said press secretary Frank S. Rosario of the Public Information and Protocol Office. Rosario said that, based on the data provided by Bob Shreck at the Department of Finance, the year 1997 was the high point for the CNMI economy.

July 17, 2002

House relents on \$213M budget

The House of Representatives has relented and agreed to the \$213-million budget proposal submitted by the Office of the Governor, subject to certain conditions. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said Tuesday that, after a previous day meeting with Executive Branch officials and Senate Vice President Jose Dela Cruz, the lower chamber agreed to Gov. Juan N. Babauta's submission level of \$213 million, provided that it be accompanied by three revenue-generating measures. The three measures are the Governor's proposal for a 0.3-percent beautification tax that is expected to generate funds for the operation of the new landfill; the suggested increase in the jackpot tax from 10 percent to 20 percent, which would offset the net loss arising from the hike in the poker and pachinko license fees; and the 1.3-percent increase in the user fee tax.

'Joint meeting to speed up budget passage'

Echoing an earlier recommendation by Senate Vice President Jose Dela Cruz, Senate President Paul A. Manglona said a sort of conference committee meeting between the two legislative chambers would go a long way in speeding up the passage of the \$213 million budget for Fiscal Year 2003. Although a conference committee meeting is usually called when both chambers are deadlocked on a pending legislation, Manglona said that an exception should be made on this case to break the three-year jinx that has hounded the budget process. The Legislature last passed a budget in 1999. Since then, the CNMI government has been operating on continuing resolution due to the Legislature's failure to pass a spending plan.

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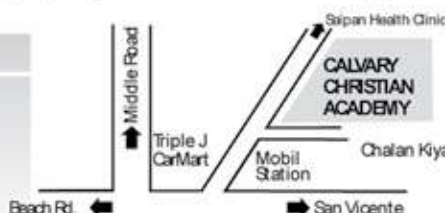


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Saipan lass graduates with honors from Boise U



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary Louise DeLeon-Guerrero is flanked by her family—father Edward, mother Eve, and brothers Michael and Matthew—during her recent graduation from Boise State University.

Mary Louise Owen DeLeon Guerrero graduated with honors from Boise State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration on May 16, 2009.

DeLeon Guerrero counts among her accomplishments her receiving the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Award and being a member of the National Dean's List of Outstanding College and University Students, which she managed by graduating in the top 1 percent of all college students in the nation.

During her studies at BSU, DeLeon Guerrero was a member of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon Criminal Justice Society and the BSU Pre-Law Society.

DeLeon Guerrero accented her attendance at BSU by becoming the CNMI's first member of a Western Association Conference Division 1 Varsity Women's Swim Team. She represented Boise State University in competitions throughout the western U.S. in the 2006-07 season.

Her other university and scholastic organization memberships and activities include

the BSU Environmental Student Association and participating as an officer and performer in BSU's Island Rhythms Club, an island dance performance organization in Boise.

While attending school, DeLeon Guerrero worked as a clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boise, Idaho, and was a research assistant at BSU's Criminal Justice Department Master's Thesis program.

As part of her extra-curricular studies in the summer of 2007, DeLeon Guerrero was a participant in the International Scholar

Laureate Program for Central and Eastern Europe Diplomacy Delegation where she traveled to several European countries.

DeLeon Guerrero is a 2002 graduate of Mount Carmel and briefly attended Northern Mari-

anas College majoring in Criminal Justice while working as a PIC Club Mate. She has relocated to Eugene, Oregon, to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice at University of Oregon and also plans to attend law

school there next school year.

DeLeon Guerrero is the daughter of Edward C. and Eve O. DeLeon-Guerrero of Koblerville, Saipan. Her brothers, Michael and Matthew, are also attending Boise State University. (PR)

University of Loyola has its first licensed RN

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just six months after certifying its first batch of graduates, the University of Loyola in the CNMI had its first registered nurse last week in the person of Vanessa Tee Tebia.

Tebia, 25, flew to Saipan last year and enrolled at the University of Loyola to avail of the institution's associate degree in nursing. She was among Loyola's first successful graduates.

Tebia, the daughter of Violeta and Frederick, was elated upon receiving the news Monday that she had passed the national licensure examination for nurses.

"I am so relieved! All my hard work paid off," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she dedicates her achievement to her family in the Philippines.

Tebia said that, as soon as she finished the course at the University of Loyola, she gave most of her time to the review sessions offered at the institution.

Tebia plans to stay on the island while waiting for her license. She said she is planning to apply as a registered nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, where a shortage of nurses is a major concern.

"I want to serve the people of the Commonwealth...because it is here where I learned and obtained my license as a registered nurse. I owe it to them," she said.

Tebia admitted dreaming of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Loyola in the CNMI graduate Vanessa Tee Tebia is the institution's newest registered nurse.

joining the nursing workforce in the U.S. mainland in the future.

"I know there are a lot of expectations in this profession... and I am willing to serve and give my best," she said.

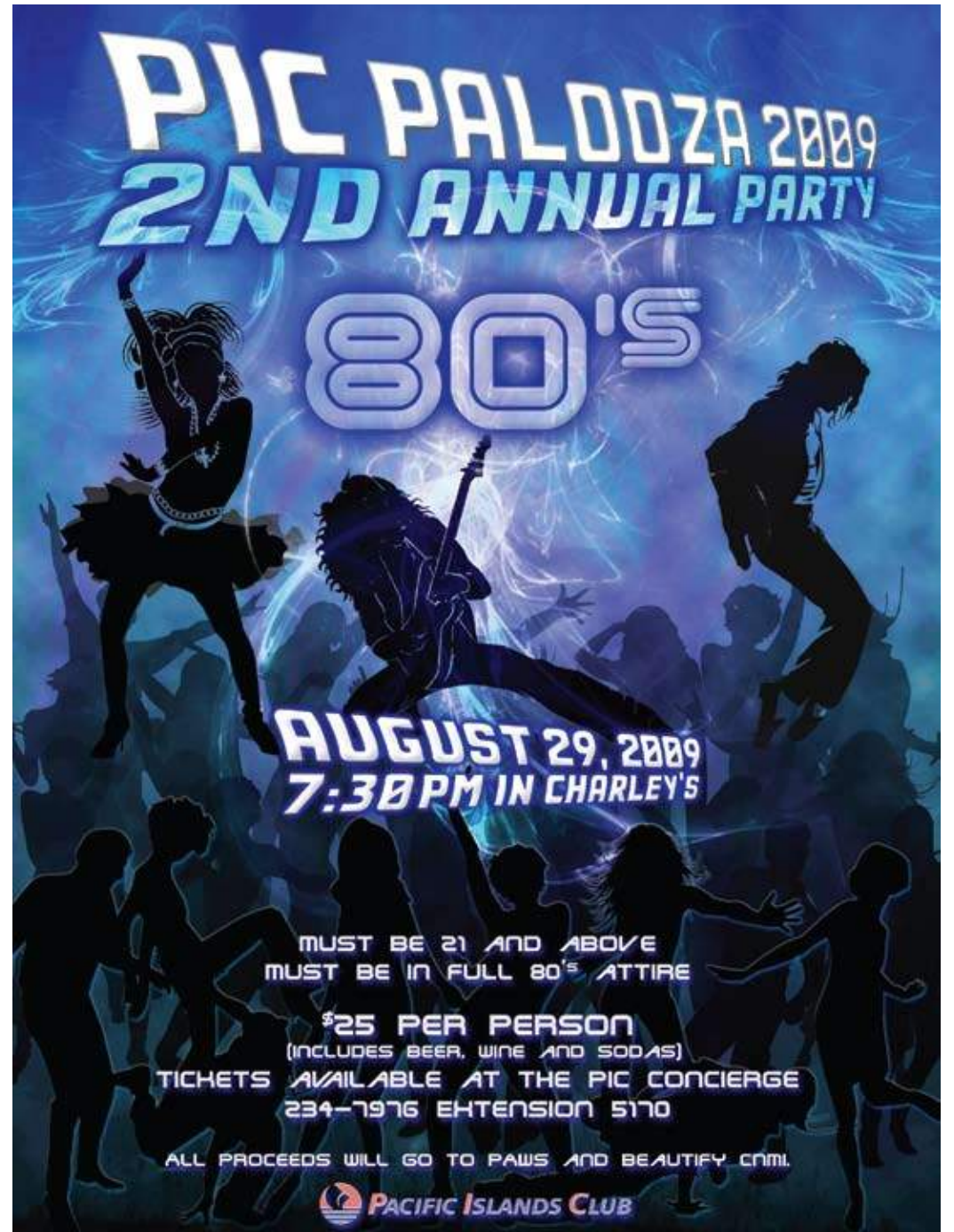
ASDN graduates are eligible to take the NCLEX for registered nurses. Once they pass it, they may opt to work right away as registered nurses.

The University of Loyola offers a two-year associate of science degree in nursing, and it plans to eventually offer a four-year doctor of medicine degree, a four-year doctor of pharmacy, and four-year bachelor of science in business administration degree.

It caters to local residents and guest workers who are eligible to participate in the university's study-now, pay-later program.

The University of Loyola at CNMI is affiliated with the

Loyola Medical College Foundation, a non-profit educational institution that also owns and operates San Beda College of Medicine, San Beda College of Nursing and St. Ignatius Health Science College in Manila. The foundation has affiliate companies in California.



Message of Appreciation

We would like to express our humble and sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends, near and far, for their untiring support during our Medical Referral Fundraising.

Special thanks to CHC Medical Referral, Dr. Ruben Arafiles and PIC, Food and Beverage Department, for their assistance.

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Matilde Muna Verdaquer
and Family.*

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

What works in Africa

During his speech to Ghana's parliament on Saturday, President Obama sounded a familiar refrain: Africa must be made and remade by Africans, and the United States will continue to support nations on the path to progress. To critics, that meant he had nothing new to say—it was the same message about good governance they'd heard from Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush. No new programs or initiatives for Africa.

But just because the message is old doesn't mean it's not worth repeating. Obama is building on a solid aid network that Bush created on the African continent. Most foreign-aid advocacy groups give the U.S. high marks on its expansion of programs that fight poverty and disease overseas.

In 2004, both sides of the aisle in Congress agreed that increasing aid to Third World countries was essential to furthering national security and foreign policy goals. The Bush administration figured out ways to channel the funding to responsible countries while setting up a transparent oversight system, ensuring that foreign-aid money wasn't siphoned off by corrupt regimes.

One such "smart aid" program is the Millennium Challenge Corp., which is going strong in 11 countries in Africa—and especially in Ghana. By 2011, Ghana will have received \$547 million to pay for roads, rural development and training tens of thousands of farmers in commercial agriculture, growing crops that might someday be exported to the U.S. Obama's budget request calls for \$1 billion to fund Millennium Challenge for the 2010 fiscal year, a significant commitment during a recession. Congress' passage of a budget this year that puts the U.S. on course to double foreign assistance by 2015 is a promising sign that this dedication will continue.

Furthermore, last week's Group of 8 summit promised \$20 billion (of which \$3.5 billion would come from the U.S.) for agricultural development, much of which will greatly benefit Africa. G-8 members have a bad habit of ignoring these commitments, but there's every reason to believe that the U.S. will keep its word.

The expectations surrounding Obama and how he will approach Africa, as a man only one generation removed from it, are enormously high. He made it clear last weekend that those who expect him to shower the continent with gifts will be disappointed. Although it was Bush who planted the seeds for a more mutually beneficial partnership between the United States and Africa, his foreign policy elsewhere made him deeply unpopular from Madagascar to Morocco; under Obama, the relationship has a chance to flower.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Retirees, if you ever needed proof, here it is

If you are a local person who is retired or an employee still working and paying into the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan you had better wake up to what's happening to your future financial security (and in some cases what's not happening) because you are getting screwed every day.

If you are unaware as to the dire financial condition of your Retirement Fund after all the publicity surrounding the NMI government's abuse of its contractual relationship with the Fund and the retirees—if you don't know at this stage or don't care—then don't waste your time reading any further as it won't do you any good.

However, if you are interested in how the government's neglect and indifference influences the future solvency of your retirement fund, then the following are a few issues you should consider.

First, as mentioned in a recent article, "it Ain't Over 'Til It's Over" (*Saipan Tribune*, July 14) it was pointed out that the June 29 Civil Action 06- 0397 by Associate Judge Govendo affirmed the government's debt to the Fund of \$231 million. But—now get this—it doesn't necessarily mean that the government will honor its contractual obligation or the court's judgment because of the "mouse-trap" of a law, 1 CMC Section 2707, which states the government can't honor (pay) judgments against it unless the money has been appropriated by the Legislature.

If that was not shocking enough, to add insult to financial injury, at their session on July 9, the Senate passed the concurrent resolution with an amendment that deleted the House provision earmarking almost \$1.7 million of anticipated revenues for FY 2010 for the Retirement Fund (30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the alcoholic beverage container tax as required by 1 CMC Section 8365). This is the same revenue source that the government is required by law to transfer to the Fund and the same revenue source suggested by the court. If this isn't the height of irresponsibility on the part of the Legislature, I don't know what is.

Thus, as any fool can see the Legislature has no serious intention of assisting the retirees and the Fund dig itself out of the mess the government created. That is, of course, if you ever needed proof. If you still need proof, I have a whole bunch of stuff rusting in the tall grass I would like to sell you.

Some members of the Legislature want to float a pension obligation bond guaranteed by taxpayer's money to pay its debt to the Fund. As the dedicated and astute representative Tina Sablan so succinctly stated, "A pension obligation bond would likely end up costing the Commonwealth taxpayers more in the long run, if investment returns do not exceed the amount that we borrow, and if we factor in these likely 'exorbitant interest rates.' It will saddle my generation and my children's generation with massive debt for years to come." The wise lady is absolutely correct.

To attempt to sell such bonds in today's market is not smart and only an uninformed, irresponsible government would even attempt to do it. My own opinion being that because the government has such a poor track record with respect to paying its debts, I seriously doubt if could sell its bonds in today's market. And if it could, the

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



interest would be huge.

The bond issue aside, the retirees of the NMI and indeed the population in general must realize two basic facts if the area's economy is to ever again reach even a modest level of economic self-sufficiency.

First, there are probably only two options for additional sources of money for the NMI.

The area can continue to "beg" money from the U.S. Congress over and above that agreed by the Covenant and thus depend upon U.S. taxpayer largess. My guess is this is rather tenuous considering that the U.S. is deeply in debt and is itself borrowing money to make ends meet.

Secondly, the NMI can attempt to better position itself to make the islands more attractive to U.S. domestic and foreign investment. As many have observed from the recent past it has been foreign investment much more than local domestic investment that first propelled the islands out of the economic doldrums of the Trust Territory period to one of pronounced economic growth. I well know the many external forces which have since adversely impacted upon the economy in recent years. Those forces are a fact of economic life for the NMI and need not be listed here as they are well known or should be.

Simply stated, "desirable" and "measured" foreign investment levels provide jobs and tax revenue which, in turn, will eventually strengthen the Retirement Fund. That is a fact. Obviously, the NMI's business and investment climate must be appealing to outside investors. Something which, in my judgment and based on my experience, is not presently the case. This issue has been the subject of several op-ed articles which can be researched in the *Saipan Tribune's* archives.

It must be recognized and the truth faced that in no small measure—and in my opinion—the problem in attempting to stimulate the economy through increased foreign investment and the failure to succeed lies to some extent with the NMI Legislature. It's one of several major obstacles to the effort and has been for many years. But don't take my word for it. Request an independent assessment from experts at the U.N., the Asian Development Bank or U.S. A.I.D.

Considered collectively, the Legislature is far too large, too expensive, too wasteful, too political, too confrontational, too ineffective, too little institutional vision, and too ill-informed as to the needs of the private sector and foreign investment in particular. It

See RETIREES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shopkeeper's wisdom

When it comes to economics, "research" done in offices is often just bean counting, and counting virtual beans at that. A computer screen is not a window to the world; a computer screen is a computer screen. Reality is on the streets, in the warehouses, in the stores, at the taxi stands, and on the farms.

When I took my first full-time job in economics, one of my first tasks was to try to pump up the company's top line by adjusting our prices, which, for us, involved two elements: Our stated price, and our interest rates (a large portion of our sales were financed).

There are two considerations in pricing decisions: You've got the competitive considerations, in other words, how your competitors react to your price changes, and you've got market considerations, which is how the consumers react to your price changes.

Leaving aside the market issues for a moment, I'll mention that we were locked in a head-to-head battle with one large rival company. The temptation was to "shade" (slightly undercut) our competitor's price on one hand and, perhaps, increase interest rates on the other hand.

The risk, as always, was that we'd start a shading game of ping-pong with the competition, back and forth, which would succeed in doing nothing but bleeding profits from both of us.

Still, the competitive aspect of pricing didn't trouble me too much; the other company was sophisticated and rational, so I could anticipate their reactions to our moves.

But as for the market reception, well, I had no idea what would happen from price and interest rate adjustments. Furthermore,

financing is a murky realm for many consumers and, depending on how you structure things, they will actually prefer to pay more for something than less for something. Many economists can't grasp that, but any F&I (finance and insurance) man at a car dealer sure can.

Anyway, the next morning I was in my office brooding over this problem, staring out the window, and it struck me that the answer was out there, somewhere, but it most certainly was not in my office.

So I took a drive to our most important store. It was in a Los Angeles neighborhood so dangerous the 10th Mountain Division would probably want artillery support before they'd risk going in there. Anyway, after I arrived, I sat in my car for about an hour while I watched the foot traffic go in and out of our store. I didn't have a plan. I just sat there. When it comes to sitting somewhere without a plan, well, I'm your man.

Here's one thing I noticed: Many of the people who went into our business, or who seemed to be considering going into it, were also shopping at a little market in the same center. So I popped into the market and bought a soda. The proprietor was Korean. I tried to chat with him. He was mighty frosty to me at first, since a crew-cut dude in a blue suit and spit-shined Wingtips wasn't exactly a normal, or even welcomed, sight in that area. But I finally got the guy to hear me out. I gave him a business card, told him that we seemed to have many common customers, so I asked the guy for his insights into their buying behavior.

An American who was willing to listen, instead of talk, was too

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com



tempting of an anomaly for the Korean to pass up.

Although he didn't extend credit to his customers, his insights into their buying behavior and decision-making processes were profound (as well as surprising). My job was to take this new galaxy of behavior and put it in quantitative terms that we could make profitable decisions with. As for my immediate task, coming up with a pricing strategy, that gig seemed to have worked out OK; any success was probably mild, but at least it didn't blow up in my face.

For the duration of my tenure with that company, I'd visit with the guy from time to time.

Shifting my focus to the Commonwealth, from what I've seen, overall, businesses in the CNMI seem to have a far better understanding about customer behavior than most mainland businesses do. One reason is that the Commonwealth is more accommodating to small businesses than the mainland is, so we have a some intrepid, hands-on proprietors who aren't above talking with their customers.

Letters to the Editor

Bellas responds to 'open letter'

I respond to the "open letter" to the editor addressed to me and printed in your newspaper on July 15, 2009. Most of these comments are more appropriately addressed to the person who wrote this letter, rather than the garment workers whose names were just added onto the letter.

Why do I suspect that these workers did not write this letter?

I recently appeared on TV and came out in the newspaper warning workers not be taken advantage of by any unscrupulous person(s) who are trying to make a quick profit by charging former garment workers money to fill out an "application" for them. This person or persons are charging \$20 per application and also trying to get the workers to pay them 30 percent of the amount they might receive. What services are these person (s) providing? Nothing, other than they happen to be able to read and write English. You will recall that the recent newspaper ad soliciting the applications said that they could be submitted in Chinese.

The open letter was supposedly written by the following five workers:

1. Mai Hui
2. Lui Weiyong
3. Zhao, Yunjie
4. Chen Quixiang
5. Feng, Xiaoquig

A review of the almost 500 individuals applications that the Garment Workers Trust Fund has received in the past two months shows that the first three workers (numbered 1-3 above) have never submitted any application to the trust fund. On the same day that the "open letter" appeared in your paper, July 15, worker #1, Ms. Hui, dropped off a handwritten "application" to my office for the first time.

As for workers #4 and #5, they previously submitted their "applications" in English and on what appear to be forms created by someone on their behalf. So there are clearly some questions as to who and for what purpose this letter was written.

Perhaps one reason for the letter is that workers are now aware that they may not receive any money, contrary to any misrepresentation

or promises by the letter writer. Perhaps the letter writer is being asked to refund the workers' money and she/he needs this letter to continue to persuade the workers that they were not cheated and they still have a chance of getting money based on his/her "efforts."

I guess we will not know the entire truth as long as this person hides behind the shadow of workers' names, instead of his/her own name.

However, since I am taking the opportunity to respond, I do want to correct any misinformation about the purpose of the trust fund and how it is being operated.

First, I do not make the decisions by myself on which of the applications for assistance will be funded. There are three people with that responsibility and both of the other two persons reside off-island, so they are not subject to any local influences or biases.

The decisions that have already been made, such as the one to substantially fund the off-island referral of a gravely ill former garment worker, were made by the concurrence of all three trustees. That decision was made, not because the agency bringing the matter to my attention was the Philippine consulate, but because there was verification of the serious medical condition of that worker. The decision would have been the same if a similar request had been made by a responsible agency, such as CHC, on behalf of a Chinese worker. Furthermore, the consulate gave its guarantee that the funds would be properly spent and that they would account to the trust fund in writing for the expenditure of the funds. As for the implication (no name is given in the open letter) that there is a Chinese worker who is in a similar situation, we have reviewed our records and find no such request for assistance from anyone else.

Second, every three months the expenditure of the trust fund money is reported to Judge Munson and those expenditures are reviewed by those who are still involved in this case. If no objections are raised by any of the parties to the lawsuit, and the judge

finds them to be in order, they are approved. We do not make any secret expenditures of the trust fund.

Third, the trustees, who were also the former members of the garment oversight board (GOB), have repeatedly exercised any flexibility they were given under the settlement agreement in favor of prolonging the existence of the distribution fund in order to get as much of the funds into the hands settlements class members (SCMs). Judge Munson has also been very accommodating in that regard and granted several GOB requests to add garment workers that were left off the original list of SCMs and to allow the GOB additional time in order that workers could cash checks that

were returned to us because workers were having problems cashing checks in banks in their home countries.

I wish to make one crucial point very clear that the writer of the open letter does not seem to understand: Only garment workers who were SCMs were entitled to any funds from the distributions fund

When the GOB suggested and Judge Munson approved the creation of this trust fund, it was for a charitable purpose. Namely, to assist other garment workers who were NOT previously entitled to any portion of the trust fund. However, the trust fund is clearly not intended to compensate any garment workers for any more prior unpaid wages. That ended when the GOB's term expired and the distribution fund became the trust fund.

Finally, the open letter author seems to assume that because we control these funds, that somehow the trustees have a personal interest in how they are spent. That is just not true. If the guidelines that the trustees are relying on as how to disburse the funds were changed, we would comply.

If the real writer of this letter would like to discuss this further, I suggest you reveal your identity. Then, we can look into all issues associated with this matter very thoroughly.

Timothy H. Bellas

Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas LLC

RELATED NEWS

■ Another open letter to Bellas. **PAGE 14**

RETIREES

From Page 10

should be replaced with a much smaller number of lawmakers, its budget slashed, and term limits imposed.

The only hope of ever correcting this top-heavy inefficient, overpaid legislative body is to push for a constitutional convention when the agenda can be open to all manner of changes to improve the governance of the islands.

Finally, there's too much legislative meddling and not enough creative dedication toward improving the investment climate.

Returning to the dismal situation with your retirement security, if you are a long-time retiree, you will no doubt recall the Trust Territory days when life was much simpler. The T.T. took care of your many needs at no cost to you—free power and water (24 hours a day) and free medical care. The achievement of self-government changed all that.

Now it's more or less up to you to look out for yourself. So if you don't exert pressure on your government and demand action to correct the mess it has created you will be partially responsible when your pension dries up. You will certainly have had ample warning. Stop waiting and wishing for others to look after your interests. Look out for your own future financial security and elect candidates






who will look after your best interests.

Editor's Note: With more than four decades of international experience as an economist and investment advisor for development banks and finance institutions in North Africa, the Bahamas, Thailand's Board of Investment and the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank, the author is also the recipient of a meritorious award from the U.S. State Department for his work in generating foreign investment as a method to develop the economies of several nations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Web site: www.saipanstewart.com (Open on "Home" for gateway).

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Majuro	Rain	▲86 ▼78

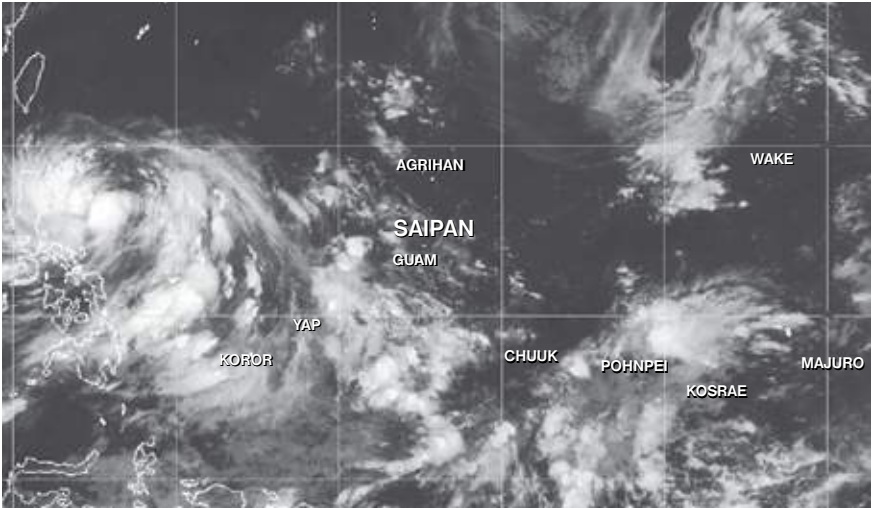
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57 ▼47
Beijing	Rain	▲78 ▼68
Hong Kong	Showers	▲87 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼76
London	Rain	▲66 ▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼66
Manila	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲56 ▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
New York	Cloudy	▲86 ▼70
Osaka	Showers	▲88 ▼73
Paris	Showers	▲70 ▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲79 ▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲95 ▼68
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74 ▼57
Seoul	Showers	▲82 ▼72
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼74
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲90 ▼69

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:37 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:16 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
4:23 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:41 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is located northwest of the CNMI near 20N140E. An upper-level trough runs southeastward from the center to 15N150E to 10N160E then curves northeastward to beyond 25N176E. Favorable upper-level winds are enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of the CNMI within 50 miles of a line from 20N146E to 22N144E west of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 15N145E to 12N143E and east of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 12N141E to 8N144E. Tropical depression 07W is located near 15N126E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from the center of TD 07W to the north of Yap at 10N138E to EQ151E. Widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of a line from 17N130E to 15N133E to 5N136E. This area includes Koror. Low-level winds converging near the tail end of the monsoon trough southwest of Chuuk are generating scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from EQ151E to 8N148E. A surface trough embedded within trade-wind flow is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a broad area bounded by EQ153E to 6N153E to 9N161E to 8N165E to 1N167E then back to EQ153E. This area includes Pohnpei and Kosrae. Strong upper-level divergence aided by low-level convergence is producing cloudiness and scattered showers in a wide area southeast of Wake Island from 11N180 to 15N170E to 19N180 then back to 11N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:37 AM	1:51 PM
Saturday	1:27 AM	2:53 PM
Sunday	2:24 AM	3:58 PM
Monday	3:27 AM	5:03 PM
Tuesday	4:35 AM	6:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 12:0pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 12:0pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 12:0pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

North Korea: Troubles for CNMI?

Is North Korea a threat to us in the Marianas? If so, why? The answer is: It might doom our efforts to keep the Russian and mainland Chinese coming here as tourists.

Now carefully consider the following reasons.

They carried out a second nuclear test last May and promised to set off another soon; launched nearly a dozen missiles since 2006, a cluster of them in the last few weeks. And in a recent report, North Korea vowed "resolute military action" if the United States tried to isolate it after the U.N. Security Council imposed widened sanctions against the reclusive communist state."

That's not all. The North will also restart its program to enrich uranium and to "weaponize" plutonium at its nuclear weapons plant. The report also stated that Pyongyang would consider any attempt by U.S. or its allies to impose a "blockade" as an "act of war."

There's more. Kim Jong Il is now blaming Washington for the nuclear tensions, saying it was "compelled to go nuclear in the face of the U.S. hostile policy and its nuclear threats."

Kim's other beef is with the United Nations and all the

other countries hostile to him. The U.N. sanctions resolution approved recently banned all weapons exports from North Korea and most arms imports into the state. It authorized U.N. member states to inspect North Korean sea, air and land cargo, requiring them to seize and destroy any goods transported in violation of the sanctions.

So ask yourself: Will these sanctions leveled against North Korea carry any weight with ailing leader Kim Jong Il who has recently anointed his youngest son to replace him in this totalitarian country? Only if you believe he and his military already consider the sanctions as enough provocation for all-out war.

Without elaborating about terrorism around the world and its easy reach upon us a mere 1,500 miles west of the Marianas, or rogue nations such as North Korea (and Iran) that swears to destroy anything that gets in its way, let's talk about the U.N. sanction and its neighbor to the north, the other half of the visitors we wish to keep: Red China.

And what's their opinion? "Under no circumstances should there be use or threat of the use of force," China's U.N. ambas-

See KOREA on Next Page



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

Scheduling Fair

This is to inform all Mount Carmel High School students that there will be a scheduling fair on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to be held on the first floor at the high school building Listed below are the scheduled time for respective grade level:

Grade Level:	Time:
Seniors -12th Grade	8:00 a.m.
Juniors-11th Grade	9:00 a.m.
Sophomores-10th Grade	10:00 a.m.
Freshmen-9th Grade	11:00a.m.

Please be informed that all students who are to attend the scheduling fair are required to pay \$200.00 registration deposit.

Any question(s), pertaining to this announcement may contact the Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Bobby Baldazo at telephone no. 235-1252.

/S/ **Margaret C. DelaCruz**
President, Mount Carmel School

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Letters to the Editor

Another open letter to Bellas

I, Chun Yu Wang, was employed at Mirage Garment Factory from Feb. 7, 2000, to Aug. 20, 2001. During that time I, and many others, were routinely denied compensation for time worked. Specifically, after what were often 16-hour days of long, arduous work, we were required to complete our work tickets during non-paid, after-work hours (i.e. on our own time) in order to submit them the next day so we could be paid for our hours. This often amounted to fully two or more hours spent every day for which we were never compensated. It was as a result of such unfair practices, abusive work

environments, and living conditions, that others and I opened our original case against Mirage and other garment factories. The total amount of overtime pay I was personally denied during that time was approximately between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Almost a full seven years later, after moving on to work at several other garment factories, and under similar conditions, many of us still on island were finally told that our settlement checks for the years of injustice we had suffered had arrived. We were elated, but soon that elation turned to sadness and anger.

Much to my personal disap-

pointment, I received a grand total of only \$220 after waiting for many years, and having been promised that, as this was the United States of America, we would be compensated justly for the time worked. We took the chance that the time, energy and personal risk involved in bringing the case to the court system would be justified. I was very hopeful that the American justice system would prove sympathetic to our plight. This hope was what kept and still keeps many of us going and suffering the slights and injustice we experience on a daily basis. We felt we had a way to right the wrongs. It's not clear what formula was used to arrive at the original compensation amounts, but it was obviously not based on un-compensated hours.

What we garment factory workers respect and value most about our opportunity in Ameri-

ca is the assurance that people's rights are upheld. We suffer abuse and exploitation, and are taken advantage of, it seems, to enrich lawyers and other entities but we, the workers who actually endure the exploitation, are left still wanting and feel ultimately let down by the system.

Whether we are now experiencing emergencies or not, that money was judged by the legal system to be for the compensation and benefit of contract workers, particularly those who were part of the suit. Many, like myself, who actually brought cases to the court system received less compensation than those who didn't.

I request, therefore, that in order that justice be served in this ongoing, still painful and relevant matter, that I, and others who have been similarly shortchanged by our settlement checks be awarded our fair and

just compensation through the Garment Workers Trust Fund in lieu of any such funds being diverted to "charity." As long as there is a single garment worker remaining who has endured such a plight, the fund should feel obligated to fulfill its intended purpose and disburse compen-

sation until it is depleted. This is the fair thing to do.

Such compensation does not offer us comfort or luxury, sir, it simply offers us justice.

Chun Yu Wang
P.O. Box 503991
Saipan MP 96950

Giving CUC its due

I am writing regarding CUC's present activities. I wrote a letter to the editor regarding the way CUC issues billings and its inappropriate activities when collecting and hearing an appeal from a disgruntled customer who has legitimate reason to appeal a decision made by lower ranked officials. I vehemently argued that when lower ranked officials make a decision and a customer disagrees with it, due process should be given to them so that the upper echelon management with the rightful authority can hear them.

Recently, CUC has been improving as of late. Our power generation has improved from daily blackouts to where we are now. Billing and collection is also improving although slowly

but surely. Just recently, I saw on the news about CUC giving disgruntled customers access to be heard regarding billings that are wrong. This is definitely a good improvement. It is developing the line of an effective feedback communication for a customer to be heard as provided by basic due process application.

Mr. Muña and his rightful crew who are helping should be given credit where it is due. Like I said, we had faith in you that you will fix this problem that is making us feel like we are helpless. You are doing a great job, Mr. Muña, and we would like to thank you for it. Keep on trucking sir. You are the man.

Alfred A. Pangelinan
San Vicente, Saipan

Similarity

When guest workers appreciate the good things Rep. Tina Sablan, Atty. Steve Woodruff, Ms. Wendy Doromal, Mr. Ed Propst, Mr. Ron Hodges and Mr. Ken O'Harnet and others are doing, some call these guest workers "false believers/dreamers."

When local people acknowledge the contributions and importance of guest workers in the CNMI, some call them "anti-local."

When guest workers appreciate the good things done by any of the departments in the CNMI government, some call them "makapili" (traitor).

When local people find good things in any agency of their government and appreciate them, some call them "puppets."

I have said "thank you" several times to Rep. Tina Sablan, Atty. Woodruff, Ms. Wendy Doromal, Mr. Ed Propst, Mr. Ron Hodges, Mr. Ken

O'Harnet, Mr. Greg Cruz and Jean Cruz, Ms. Deanne Siemer, Mr. Barry Hirsbien, Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce and others. Did it make me a lesser person? I do not think so.

The bottom line is, whether you are a local or guest worker and you appreciate things or people for what they do, there will always be others who will have bad things to say about you. But please, whatever they say, let us not stop saying "thank you."

To add: When Filipino guest workers cooperate with Philippine Consulate General activities, they are called "sipsip" (sycophants). But when Filipino guest workers criticize their own Consulate, they are called "antipatiko" (scornful).

Ay, hirap talaga mabuhay (Life's so hard!)

Malou H. Berueco
As Gonno, Saipan

KOREA

From Page 13

sador, Zhang Yesui Zhang, has stated.

Meaning? China may not carry out their part of the sanction against North Korea. Why? The isolated country's \$2 billion annual trade with neighboring China equals to about 10 percent of the North's annual GDP. It is an important economic relationship either way. And Beijing has wanted to avoid any measures that could cause the North's economy to collapse, lead to chaos on their mutual border and propel millions to flee into Red China.

And South Korea? Jittery isn't the word. This democratic country, a vital key in the CN-

MI's economic growth, has been on battle-alert for months. With this kind of tension involving nations that have nuclear weaponry, even if a firecracker goes off on that peninsula the atomic bomb might follow.

So where's that leave us and Guam? That's what the Department of Homeland Security is gravely concerned about: whether to grant the Marianas visa acceptance for China and Russia—or not—before the federal takeover set for Nov. 28 of this year.

So ask yourself: Could we witness a rogue nation gone bonkers or grow terrorists in our midst? We might not have to wait until the 28th to find out.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan



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Six beaches red flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on six Saipan beach sites and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said water samples collected from the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, and Garapan Fishing Dock were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropi-

cal environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week, the division collected samples from 38 locations.

Marine Water Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm>. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for Panel "DS" that jury selections scheduled for July 20, 2009, at 8:30am in courtroom 202A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact jury coordinator Dora SN. Decena or deputy clerk Rosie Ada at 236-9765. (PR)

Jarvis to be named director of National Park Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to nominate Jonathan Jarvis to be director of the National Park Service. Jarvis, a 30-year veteran of the Park Service, currently is the regional director of the agency's Pacific West Region, which include the CNMI. "President Obama has made an outstanding choice for director of the National Park Service," Salazar said. As regional director of the Pacific West Region, Jarvis is currently responsible for the 54 units of the National Park System in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands of Guam, Saipan and American Samoa. He oversees 3,000 employees with a \$350 million annual budget.

Attention to MHS Class of 1979

The first official 1979 class reunion meeting will be held today, July 17, at Irene Takai Camacho's Dandan house at 6pm. Preparation for the 30th year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips & chips and BYOB. Call Irene at 288-2596 or Joe Kaipat at 664-8509 between 8am to 3pm for details. (PR)

Pesticide amnesty this week

The Pesticide Amnesty for Saipan, Rota and Tinian is ongoing until July 18.

The collection is only one

day for each island. On Saipan, the collection was done at two sites: the Kagman Agricultural Station and Koblerville Fire Station; on Rota the collection will be at the Sunset Villa property today, July 17; and Tinian on Saturday, July 18.

The purpose of the amnesty is to allow the community an opportunity—at no cost—to dispose of unwanted pesticides and pesticide containers. DEQ encourages farmers and businesses who apply pesticides to participate in this one time opportunity. In addition, DEQ says that transportation permits will not be required for the purpose of transporting pesticides as part of the amnesty collection. (DEQ)

Important info about NMC Fall semester

Important information about the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2009 Semester has been posted to the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu. The Fall 2009 Class Schedule, placement test dates, registration dates, and other information can be accessed now. Log on to NMC's website or call Manny Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1528 for more details. (NMC)

Feedback sought on Korean language program

The Korean Cultural Center's Korean Language School is providing a Korean language program at NMC as a program of CDI from June 19 to July 31. We want to get some comments and advice from the public for the next session. The new session will be a basic Korean language program. Don't hesitate and send your opinion and answers to the following questions. (1) What time is the best time for you to join the NMC Korean language program? (2) What day do you think is good? (3) What content do you want to learn in Korean language? Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. (PR)

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8"x12".....\$0.52/pc.

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HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU)
4"x\$0.55/pc • 6"x\$0.65/pc • 8"x\$0.75/pc

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BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE

25% OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER
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2X4X20 REGULAR: \$6.50
2X4X20 TREATED: \$11.50

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - \$3.40	2X4X12 - \$3.40
2X4X14 - \$3.90	2X4X14 - \$3.90
2X4X16 - \$4.50	2X4X16 - \$7.70
2X4X18 - \$5.00	2X4X18 - \$8.80
2X4X20 - \$6.10	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$10.00
2X6X14 - \$7.60	2X6X14 - \$11.00
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$13.00
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5/8" FLYFORM: \$24.50/PC

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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Stock: R08-003F, Auto, Ivory, License: ADU-502
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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
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TOYOTA SEDANS

R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	8,999
R09-003B	2007	CAMRY HYBRID	AUTO	16978	SILVER	ABZ-299	25,299	
U09-051L	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	46775	WHITE	ACE-226	11,499	
U09-052L	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	35226	WHITE	ACD-597	11,499	

TOYOTA SUVs

N/A	2006	RAV4 4X4 LTD	AUTO	58313	SILVER	ACE-760	13,399	
N/A	2006	4RUNNER 4X4	AUTO	69902	DRK GRAY	ACF-288	15,699	

GM CARS

R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	7,499

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	6,999
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	6,999	

GM VAN

R09-009F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	142674	WHITE	BUS-1079	5,999	
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	18,399	



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Island Snapshots



SOLID GUERRERO-CAMACHO

Independent candidates Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho pose with their families and supporters outside the Commonwealth Election Commission after filing their candidacy papers yesterday.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



COURTESY CALL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cai Mu Xiu of Guangdong, China, a multi-business owner and prospective investor, pays a courtesy visit to Mayor Juan B. Tudela on Monday, July 13, 2009, during his few days' visit to the CNMI.

CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Rosanna L. Camacho, second from right, for winning the 2009 Congressional Art Competition. She is the first winner representing the Northern Marianas and her work is displayed in the Cannon Tunnel in Washington D.C. "We love you and we are very proud of your accomplishment!" Camacho is shown here with brother Frank, mother Marcia, and Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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CANDIDACY LAUNCH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Precinct Club and supporters from Precinct 2 gather Monday night to officially endorse the candidacy of former representative Manuel "Brown" A. Tenorio and Eric B. Atalig for the House of Representatives' Precinct 2 seats.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 8th birthday to our prince charming, Willtun John. Have a wonderful birthday. We love you! Greetings coming out from your mom, dad, Leyanna, Leilani, Wil-Leina and your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday greetings go out to Dudes Ada, who is celebrating his 18th birthday today, July 17, 2009. Happy, happy birthday to you, Ninong Dudes. More power. God bless you always. Love, Chrtistian Glenn.

**FAM TOUR**

MVA

Representatives of 20 media outlets from the Guangzhou, China region visit picturesque Bird Island as part of their familiarization tour of the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan and Tinian in July 2009.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Residents of Susupe village and Sgt. Ben H. Sablan, chairman of the Municipal Neighborhood Watch Task Force, seated center, show their support to efforts to rid their village of criminal activities. Also shown, back row, are RB Camacho, far right, vice chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council; Manny "Brown" Tenorio, second from right; Eric B. Atalig, Susupe NWTF Block Captain, third from right; Frank B. Camacho, Dandan Block Captain, second from left; and Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz, third from left.

**HONORING THE FALLEN**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To honor the fallen at the 65th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and Battles for the Northern Mariana Islands, Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), David J. Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, share a moment of silence during a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia yesterday.

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DEALS OF THE WEEK

 <p>2001 Nissan Sentra XE STOCK # 1L419771 \$7,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2001 Ford Escape XLT 4x4 STOCK # 1KA03934 \$8,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2005 Nissan Sentra S STOCK # 5L514082 \$10,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2007 Ford Ranger King Cab STOCK # 7PA31120 \$16,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 STOCK # 4UC14321 \$14,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2005 Kia Rio STOCK # 56395736 \$7,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2005 Nissan Frontier STOCK # 5C430810 \$21,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2004 Honda Element EX 4x4 STOCK # 4L003130 \$14,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2007 Kia Rio LX STOCK # 6292373 \$11,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2006 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 STOCK # 6KA88167 \$23,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2007 Honda CR-V LX STOCK # 7C073538 \$18,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2007 Kia Rio LX STOCK # 76210724 \$11,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>Mona Mengloi Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562</p>	 <p>2007 Nissan Xterra S 4x4 STOCK # 7C506448 \$21,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2006 Honda Civic SI STOCK # 6H712149 \$17,995^{00*}</p>

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Call 236-8709

Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.



NMC-CREES internships open to high school students

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, under the Division of Community Programs & Services, is offering 12 paid internships to incoming high school juniors and seniors.

The High School Summer Internship Program, which will run from August 3-28, 2009, is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific Professional Development and Resident Instruction/ Caribbean and Pacific

Some of last year's NMC-CREES summer interns observe specimens in a shrimp tank at the NMC-CREES Aquaculture Wet Laboratory.

NMC-CREES



Islands Grant.

The internships aim to provide students with excellent work experience and hands-on training through active involvement in different projects. The program is also part of NMC-CREES's efforts to promote the College's Natural Resource Management degree program. There are seven positions available for Saipan, four for Rota, and one for Tinian.

Interested applicants must also

have an interest in the fields of agriculture and family consumer science, a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher, and must submit a two-page application form by July 24, 2009, at 4:30pm.

Application forms can be picked up from the CREES Office at the NMC As Terlaje Campus at Building F, or from the Tinian and Rota NMC Offices. For more information, call the CREES Office at 234-5498 Ext 1705. (NMC-CREES)

NMI students join annual kids' convention in Japan

A six-student delegation from the Northern Mariana Islands have joined children from 46 other regions at the 21st Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 8 to 22, 2009.

The APCC, a non-profit organization, aims to promote international cooperation between children so they will grow into adults with a strong sense of their identity as "global citizens." This year's theme is "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world." The Northern Marianas' participation is funded by APCC.

The APCC was founded in 1989 by the Fukuoka Junior Chamber and hosts children from more than 30 countries and regions throughout the Asia-Pacific area. This year, Fukuoka has invited over 300 children from 46 different areas all over Asia. There are representatives from the United States, Tahiti, Kiribati, the Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, China, and the Maldives, to name a few.

"The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention is a wonderful opportunity for young people of our islands to understand the place of the Northern Marianas in the region and the world, in general," said Marianas Visitors Authority man-

aging director Perry Tenorio. "In interacting with children of other countries, they will have the experience to learn from others and in the process, understand better what makes the Northern Marianas unique in the world."

Junior ambassadors must demonstrate that they believe in the APCC philosophy and be able to spend about 10 days living with a foreign host family and take part in day-to-day activities. Ambassadors will learn about the different cultures represented at the convention, as well as the Japanese way of life. The delegates will also have the opportunity to share a variety of cultures, as well as presentations for the whole congregation.

Each year, Northern Marianas public and private schools are requested to submit a nominee, assigned with an alternate participant to represent the CNMI at the annual convention. Junior ambassadors are selected based on the participation criteria set forth by the APCC. This year's student participants are Joseph M. Lizama, Jeffrey S. Centino, Thomas A. Manglona II, Benikina A. Lizama, Paulaine T. Sasamoto, and Annabel P. Manzón, accompanied by chaperone Tasia Sablan Bocago of MVA. (MVA)

Hawaii's tourism group president gets new role

Seeks ties with Guam, Saipan to explore new markets

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The president of newly-formed Hawaii Tourism Association, Juergen Thomas Steinmetz, has been selected to become a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Council for the Pacific and appointed to lead the council's tourism subcommittee.

"I am very honored that the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Council has bestowed me with such an important role," said Steinmetz. "I have a lot of ideas that I want to help implement not only because of the current challenges but also to make sure that Hawaii Tourism and opportunities in Guam and

Saipan remain in the forefront of the global marketplace."

According to Steinmetz, HiTA is developing a strategy to facilitate interaction between Hawaii, Guam and Saipan tourism players and emerging markets such as Singapore, India, European Union countries, and the Gulf region.

"The aim, of course, is to open up untapped markets and create new opportunities for our region," he said. "I would very much like to encourage members of the local tourism industry to work with HiTA on educational and communication projects for these markets."

The HiTA president adds that those who are interested may contact HiTA at thomas@hawaii-tourismassociation.com or call 1-808-566-9900. (PR-HiTA)

Saipan Fishermen's Association

25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

Saipan, CNMI
July 18 & 19, 2009
(Saturday & Sunday)

LAUNCHING

- Points/Times:** Sugar Dock (Chalan Kanoa), Smiling Cove Marina, Fishing Base (Garapan) 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. All boats launching after 8:00 a.m. must launch their boats at the Smiling Cove Marina
- Entrance Fee:** \$150.00 per boat includes a captain and one angler (2). \$25.00 for each additional angler.
- Type of Fishing:** Trolling
- Expected Number:** 50+ boats
- Categories:** Bill Fish (1st to 3rd) Yellow Fin (1st to 3rd) Wahoo (1st to 3rd) Mahi-Mahi (1st to 3rd) Skipjack (1st to 3rd) & Total weight
- Special Prize:** The Saipan Fishermen's Association will award special prizes and will be announced on a later date to the 1st participant to land a marlin weighing over 624.34 lbs.

\$10,000 will be given to first participant to land the record noted

Banquet at Hyatt Regency Saipan



Participants who plan on bringing a guest to the banquet must purchase tickets during pre-registration at the Smiling Cove Marina at \$25.00 each.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 17, 2009

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: Pre-registration at the Smiling Cove Marina. Officials from the Saipan Fishermen's Association will briefly go over the rules & regulation of the Tournament there. Blessing of the boats will take place soon after the rules briefing.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

6:00 a.m.: The 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament officially begins. (Reminder: designated launching points and times only).

6:00 p.m.: Tournament ends for the day.

Sunday, July 19, 2009

6:00 a.m.: Tournament continues

6:00 p.m.: The 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament officially ends.

Monday, July 20, 2009

6:00 p.m.: Tournament Awards Banquet (TBA) Must present your tickets at the door in order to enter



FAMILY FUN DAY

July 18, 2009

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Tel: 670.234.7326 Fax: 670.235.7326 saipansdaschool@gmail.com
Business hours 7:15 am - 4:30 pm (mon-thurs) 7:15 am - 1:00 pm (fri)

child
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center

The SDA Child Development Center is open from 7am until 5pm
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Summer Session June 1st, 2010 through August 6th, 2010



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Full Time sessions are from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm or more than 7 hours a day.
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For more information call 670.235.3204 or email us at
sdachilddevcenter@gmail.com.

Business

Denial of CIT bailout unlikely to rattle markets

WASHINGTON (AP)—CIT Group Inc.'s inability to get emergency government funding drew a muted reaction from investors, suggesting the commercial lender's possible failure won't have widespread economic consequences.

CIT said late Wednesday that

negotiations with regulators about a possible rescue had broken off after days of round-the-clock talks, raising expectations that the New York-based company will file for bankruptcy. The move marked a defining moment for the Obama administration and showed it's drawing a line

in the sand on federal rescues for troubled financial firms.

Investors seemed unfazed by the news. Futures on the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard and Poor's 500 index dipped on the announcement but quickly stabilized. Overseas, Asian stock markets rose

sharply following Wall Street's surge earlier Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrials finished the day up 257 points.

The muted response to CIT's woes suggests investors are more focused on signs that the economic slump may be easing, said Paul Baiocchi, senior market strategist at Delta Global Advisors in San Francisco.

"The market may simply scoff at this news," Baiocchi said. "We're seeing more optimism with the earnings outlook this quarter, so that could outweigh CIT's problems."

CIT's small size relative to

other big commercial banks may also ease worries of a ripple effect. Though a major lender to small and midsize U.S. business with about a million clients, CIT is one-eighth of the size of Lehman Brothers when massive credit losses forced the investment bank into bankruptcy last fall.

CIT had also begun cutting back on lending in recent months, diminishing the risk a possible bankruptcy could cause significant damage to the broader economy. The lender had \$5.3 billion in credit lines to customers as of March, down from \$6.1

billion at the end of 2008.

"That shows they were pulling back and should lessen the immediate blow of this," said Kathleen Shanley, an analyst at corporate bond research firm Gimme Credit. "I don't see a real contagion effect here."

And neither, it seems, does the Obama administration's financial rescue program, headed by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. By withholding aid, the administration is betting that CIT's likely failure won't pose a critical risk to an economy weighed down by rising unemployment.

Prices up, but down is a bigger threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sharply higher prices for everyday goods in June reflected a surge at the gas pump, not the start of a dangerous bout of inflation. In fact, economists say falling prices are the bigger danger.

A Labor Department report Wednesday showed consumer prices making their biggest jump last month in almost a year. But overall prices are down 1.4 percent from this time last year—the biggest decline in almost six decades.

That's bad news for business executives. High unemployment and stagnant wages mean they risk losing customers if they raise their prices.

After sales rose for three months at Mitchell & Best Homebuilders of Rockville, Md., Vice CEO Marty Mitchell thought the time was right to try hiking prices at one of his eight developments.

But so far the 2 percent bump has been a failure—a disappointment for the company because

"we're actually selling for less than the true cost," Mitchell said.

Consumer prices were up 0.7 percent in June, the Labor Department said, mostly because of higher energy prices. Gasoline was 17 percent more expensive in June than in May.

Food prices were up only slightly, and dairy products were cheaper. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, posted a moderate 0.2 percent rise in June, well within the Federal Reserve's comfort zone.

Paulson defends his response to economic crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on Wednesday defended his response to the economic crisis last year as an imperfect, but necessary rescue that spared the U.S. financial market from total collapse.

"Many more Americans would be without their homes, their jobs, their businesses, their savings and their way of life," he said in written testimony prepared for a hearing Thursday.

While losses have been staggering, "that suffering would

have been far more profound and disturbing" had the government not intervened, he will tell the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Paulson's defense came as Congress began an independent bipartisan probe into the government's handling of the crisis. Democrat Phil Angelides and Republican Bill Thomas, both politicians from California, were appointed to lead the effort.

The commission will be given \$5 million to complete its work by Dec. 15, 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Strong results at Intel pull stocks sharply higher

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's big companies are giving investors a reason to restart Wall Street's spring rally. Stocks surged Wednesday for the second time in three days, propelling all the major indexes up about 3 percent and the Dow Jones industrials up 257 points for their biggest one-day gain in nearly four months. An upbeat forecast from Intel Corp. and the Federal Reserve's more positive take on the economy built on momentum that began Monday when an analyst issued an optimistic forecast for Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Oil holds above \$61 on positive US Fed news

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$61 a barrel Thursday in Asia after a more positive economic outlook from the U.S. central bank buoyed investor confidence. Benchmark crude for August delivery was down 6 cents to \$61.47 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract added \$2.02 to settle at \$61.54. Oil surged Wednesday on signs from the Federal Reserve that the U.S. economy may be performing better than expected.

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Nation

Sotomayor sidesteps on abortion, guns in grilling

Senate panel OKs plan to revamp health care system

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama achieved a milestone Wednesday when a Senate committee approved a plan to revamp the U.S. health care system.

The Senate panel's action, which attracted no Republican votes, came as the president's campaign organization rolled out television ads to build support for his top domestic priority.

Obama met with Republicans at the White House in search of an elusive bipartisan compromise on his call to expand coverage to the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans as well as restrain spending increases in health care.

But the 13-10 party-line vote in the Senate health committee signaled a deepening rift in Congress. While Demo-

crats respond to Obama's call for action with renewed determination, Republicans are using harsher words to voice their misgivings.

In the House, Democrats began pushing legislation through the first of three committees, although moderate and conservative members of the rank and file were demanding changes. In the Senate, lawmakers were considering fees on health insurance companies as a new source of potential financing for a \$1 trillion package that's short on funds.

"We have delivered on the promise of real change," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said as he presided over the Senate health committee vote, alluding not only to his bill but also to Obama's campaign promise.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor sidestepped volleys of pointed questions on abortion and gun rights from senators Wednesday, keeping her demeanor cool and her opinions mostly private as she neared the end of a marathon grilling on the road to all but sure confirmation.

After more than 10 hours of questioning by Judiciary Committee senators over two days, Sotomayor had yet to make a slip—certainly not the gaffe that even Republicans concede would be necessary to derail her nomination to be the first Hispanic and third woman to serve on the high court. She was due back for still more questioning on Thursday.

The appeals court judge, 55,

avoided weighing in on any major issue that could come before her as a justice, instead using legal doctrine, carefully worded deflections and even humor to ward off efforts to pin her down.

Appearing more at ease in the witness chair, Sotomayor defused a tense exchange on gun rights by joking about shooting a GOP critic and charmed Democratic supporters with nostalgic praise for fictional attorney Perry Mason.

Republicans, frustrated in their attempts to undercut President Barack Obama's first high court choice, said they were still worried Sotomayor

would bring bias and a political agenda to the bench.

"It's muddled, confusing, backtracking on issue after issue," complained Sen. Jeff Sessions of



Sotomayor

Alabama, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel. "I frankly am a bit disappointed in the lack of clarity and consistency in her answers."

Her rulings—except for a much-debated reverse

discrimination case—have not shed much light on her positions either, though she is considered unlikely to disturb the Supreme Court balance in replacing generally liberal Justice David Souter.

On abortion rights for exam-

ple, Sotomayor has not ruled on any case that squarely confronts the issue. As an appeals court judge she dismissed a challenge to the so-called global gag rule on U.S. foreign aid, deciding against an abortion rights group. But in her opinion she used the phrases "anti-abortion" and "pro-choice," typically used by abortion rights supporters.

The hearings are expected to continue Thursday with more questions for Sotomayor and testimony from outside witnesses. A vote by the full Senate to confirm her is expected in early August, time enough to allow her to don the robes of a justice before a scheduled hearing on Sept. 9 on a case involving federal campaign finance law.

Police shoot, kill armed man near Capitol complex

WASHINGTON (AP)—A chaotic scene unfolded near the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday after police shot and killed an armed man in what authorities described as a routine rush hour traffic stop that turned deadly.

U.S. Capitol Police spokeswoman Sgt. Kim Schneider said the unidentified 35-year-old man sped away in a white car after being stopped a few blocks from the Capitol. The

man drove the wrong way down a street and ultimately crashed into a police cruiser in a heavily guarded area about a block north of the Capitol grounds, striking two officers with his car along the way, she said.

Police then opened fire after seeing the man hold up his handgun and refusing to put it down, said Schneider, who described the melee as "very fast moving, very fluid."



ACROSS THE NATION

Gasoline tanker explodes on I-75 north of Detroit

HAZEL PARK, Mich. (AP)—Flames shot hundreds of feet in the air after a gasoline tanker exploded Wednesday night underneath a highway overpass near Detroit. Part of the overpass collapsed onto the interstate below and spilled fuel burned as fire crews doused the road with water. The drivers of the tanker, a semitrailer and a car were taken to a hospital with minor injuries, said Michigan State Police Lt. Shannon Sims. The three men were being interviewed as part of the investigation into how the accident happened.

Space shuttle blasts off after month's delay

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—After more than a month's delay, space shuttle Endeavour and seven astronauts thundered into orbit Wednesday on a flight to the international space station, hauling up a veranda for Japan's enormous lab and looking to set a crowd record. Success came on launch try No. 6, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the liftoff of man's first moon landing. But

the mood was dampened somewhat when NASA managers watched the launch video. Eight or nine pieces of foam insulation came off the external fuel tank during liftoff, and the shuttle was hit at least two or three times, said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's space operations chief. Some scuff marks were spotted, but that probably is coating loss and considered minor, he said.

Pentagon won't ban war-zone smoking, despite study

WASHINGTON (AP)—Smoke 'em if you got 'em. The Pentagon reassured troops Wednesday that it won't ban tobacco products in war zones. Defense officials hadn't actually planned to eliminate smoking—at least for now. But fear of a ban arose among some troops after the Defense Department received a study recommending the military move toward becoming tobacco-free—perhaps in about 20 years. Press secretary Geoff Morrell pointedly told a Pentagon news conference that Defense Secretary Robert Gates is not planning to prohibit the use of cigarettes, chewing tobacco or other tobacco products by troops in combat.



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The "CASH RAFFLE PRIZE" presentation will be held at a later date, the winner of this prize will be contacted not more than seven days after the event for details.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN reserves the right to cancel ONLY the CAR or CASH RAFFLE and refund the money of those who have purchased tickets if a minimum of 5,000 tickets are not sold seven days prior to the scheduled event/drawing date. Prior notice will be posted should ONLY the raffle event be cancelled. The LAS VEGAS NIGHT EVENT will be held regardless.

All winners are required by law to file tax form W-2G at the CNMI Tax Office. THANK YOU for your continued support!!!

Asia

Indonesia to boost police at Freeport mine

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia is deploying police special forces to end a wave of deadly shootings at the world’s largest gold mine run by U.S.-based Freeport in the remote Indonesian province of Papua, a police official said Thursday.

A wave of attacks since Saturday along a road to the mine has marked the worst violence to hit Freeport’s operations in the restive province since the murder of three teachers, including two Americans, in August 2002.

At least 15 people, most of them police officers, have been killed or wounded along the 40-mile (65-kilometer) road from Freeport’s sprawling Grasberg

mining complex to the mountain mining town of Timika.

National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Sulistyo Ishak said “we have decided to increase enforcement measures to restore security.”

Police “special forces” would be sent, along with army soldiers, but he did not say how many.

Mindo Pangaribuan, a spokesman for the Indonesian subsidiary of Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc., said the road has been declared off limits to Freeport workers—numbering around 20,000 excluding on site family members—because of “security reasons.”

It was unclear how long the

travel ban would last, but the company said it would not affect its business operations.

On Wednesday, five police officers were injured by gunfire and taken to a Freeport-owned hospital, raising the number of wounded to 12, Papua’s chief detective, Bambang Rudi, said Thursday.

They were shot in the stomach, hand and thigh when “they were sprayed with bullets,” Ishak said, adding that they were all now in stable condition.

Since Saturday, the assailants have shot and killed a 29-year-old Australian and a Freeport security guard, while a policeman fell to his death in a ravine as he sought cover.



Security guards of U.S. mining giant Freeport check a truck at the entrance gate of the mining complex in Timika, Papua province, Indonesia, Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

July is deadliest for US-led forces in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—July is shaping up as the deadliest month of the Afghan war for U.S.-led international forces, with the number killed already matching the highest full-month toll of the nearly eight-year conflict, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press.

As of Wednesday, at least 46 international troops, including 24 Americans, had been killed in Afghanistan this month, according to statements by the U.S. military and the NATO command.

That matches the tolls for the two previous deadliest months—June and August of 2008.

The rate of deaths in July—about three a day—is approaching some of the highest levels of the Iraq war.

The latest reported deaths occurred Tuesday. They include an American soldier who was killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan and two Turks, including a colonel, who died in a traffic accident in the north of the country.

In addition, six Ukrainian civilians and a 6-year-old Afghan were killed Tuesday when an Mi-6 transport helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan. The helicopter’s owners in the former Soviet republic of Moldova said the helicopter was shot down, and the Taliban claimed responsibility.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell acknowledged that the U.S. has lost troops “at an alarming rate this month.”

Government PR campaign targets Chinese Muslims

HOTAN, China (AP)—The chorus of smiling Muslims and Han Chinese wore matching yellow polo shirts and appeared on television Wednesday, singing: “We are all part of the same family.”

The TV spot was the latest effort in a relentless propaganda

campaign by the Chinese government to end the worst ethnic rioting in the far western Xinjiang region in decades.

But the message was falling flat on the streets of the dusty jade-trading oasis city of Hotan, where many Muslims are still seething with resentment over the Han, the

dominant ethnic group in China. The residents spoke about the long-standing tensions in hushed voices in the Silk Road town’s bustling bazaar, where donkeys pulled carts piled high with melons, and women in colorful head scarves sold wheels of flat bread that looked like pizza crust.


ASIAN BRIEFS

Court orders arrest of 4 police in Kashmir murders
SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A court in Indian-run Kashmir ordered the arrest of four police officers Wednesday for allegedly destroying evidence in the rape and murder of two women that triggered violent protests last month. Barin Ghosh, chief justice of the Jammu-Kashmir High Court, also ordered DNA samples from the four men to be matched with the semen found on the bodies of the two women—a 17-year-old girl and her 22-year-old sister-in-law. The women’s bodies were found in a shallow stream in Shopian, a town 35 miles (60 kilometers) south of Srinagar, the main city of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on May 30.

Tsunami warnings canceled after 7.8 quake off NZ
WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Water pipes were broken and fallen power lines lay on the ground Thursday in Invercargill, the southern New Zealand city closest to an earthquake that struck off the coast the night before. Prime Minister John Key was due to fly to Invercargill later Thursday on a previously scheduled visit. “All the feedback we’ve had so far is while it’s been a large

quake, certainly at this point no reported loss of life which is fantastic, and no great reports of damage,” Key told Radio New Zealand. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off New Zealand’s western coast Wednesday, generating a small tsunami. No injuries or major damage were reported.

Filipinos overseas sent record \$1.48B home in May
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Money sent home by Filipino workers overseas grew 3.7 percent in May to a record high of \$1.48 billion, defying the World Bank’s forecast of a drop in remittances this year because of the global economic crunch. The May data brought total remittances for the first five months of the year to \$6.98 billion, up 2.8 percent from \$5.5 billion for the same period last year, the central bank said Wednesday. The second highest level of remittances, at \$1.47 billion, was registered in March. Nearly 10 percent of the country’s 90 million people work abroad—many as nurses, maids, engineers, construction workers and seamen. Last year, overseas Filipinos sent home \$16.4 billion, equal to about 10.4 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, fueling domestic consumption that is a lynchpin of the economy.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-08

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements to be made to the departure and arrival terminals at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, electrical stub-out extensions aluminum storefront door and window system, sanitary sewer system, including grease trap interceptors, air-conditioning of VIP Lounge at new terminal, installation of rollup conveyor doors, replacement of automatic doors and aluminum storefront system at existing terminal building, lightning protection and grounding system, repainting work at existing terminal, baggage handling conveyor system, replacement of existing wooden fascia at the existing terminal building, replacement of roof tiles and waterproofing of existing terminal building roof, new furniture for departure terminal, renovation of restrooms at existing terminal building, renovation of storefront door leading to apron side at existing terminal building, general renovation to newly completed terminal departure building, and fencing of transformer area.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project).

- Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
- Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm’s professional integrity and competence; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2009**.


Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIR RAMP/LIFT
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of three (3) new aircraft ramps, one each to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of one (1) wheelchair ramp/lift with the capability to and from an aircraft for each airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of Wheelchair Ramp/Lift to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 18, 2009



ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION’S REGULAR MEETING FOR 17, JULY 2009.

DATE: Friday, 17 July 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Rota Casino Gaming Commission’s Office

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman’s Report
VI. Old Business
- None
VII. New Business
- Staffing Needs
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ **Diego M. Songao**
Chairman

17, July 2009

World

Iranian plane crashes into field, killing all 168

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A Russian-made jetliner carrying 168 people nose-dived into a field after taking off from the Iranian capital on Wednesday in a fiery crash that shredded the aircraft and killed everyone aboard—Iran’s worst air disaster in six years. Witnesses say the plane’s tail was on fire before it went down.

It was the latest in a string of deadly crashes in recent years that have highlighted Iran’s difficulties in maintaining its aging fleet of planes.

Iranian airlines, including state-run ones, are chronically strapped for cash, and maintenance has suffered, experts say. U.S. sanctions prevent Iran from updating its 30-year-old American aircraft and make it difficult to get European spare parts or planes as well. The country has come to rely on Russian aircraft, many of them Soviet-era planes that are harder to get parts for since the Soviet Union’s fall.

The Caspian Airlines Tupolev jet’s impact plowed a

deep, long trench into agricultural fields outside the village of Jannat Abad, and the aircraft was blasted to bits. Flaming wreckage, body parts and personal items were strewn over a 200-yard (meter) area. Firefighters put out blazes from the crash, but smoke smoldered from the pit for hours after as emergency workers searched for data recorders and other clues to the cause.

Ali Akbar Hashemi, a 23-year-old, was laying gas pipes in a house by the field when he saw the stricken jet overhead. He said the plane was circling

in the air, flames shooting from its tail section.

“Then, I saw the plane crashing nose-down. It hit the ground

causing a big explosion. The impact shook the ground like an

earthquake,” Hashemi told The Associated Press by phone.

Honduran interim leader: I’m willing to step down

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras’ interim leader said Wednesday he is willing to step down to help end his country’s political crisis, but only if ousted President Manuel Zelaya isn’t allowed to regain power.

Roberto Micheletti also accused unspecified groups

of handing out weapons and planning an armed rebellion, and his government reinstated an overnight curfew. The move came a day after Zelaya called for an insurrection in Honduras.

Micheletti, the former congressional leader who was selected by lawmakers to serve

out the final six months of Zelaya’s term, presented the resignation offer as a means to end the nearly three-week standoff over Honduras’ military-backed coup.

The interim president said he was willing to leave office “if at some point that decision is needed to bring peace and tran-

quility to the country, but without the return, and I stress this, of former President Zelaya.”

The offer was presented by a Honduran delegation to the Washington-based Organization of American States, Micheletti told reporters in Tegucigalpa. It was unclear if the OAS had received the proposal.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli soldiers: ‘No clear red lines’ in Gaza war

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli soldiers who fought in last winter’s Gaza War say the military used Palestinians as human shields, improperly fired incendiary white phosphorous shells over civilian areas and used overwhelming firepower that caused needless deaths and destruction, according to a report released Wednesday. The testimonies were by far the strongest allegations to come from war veterans that the army used excessive force during the three-week offensive and echoed claims already leveled by Palestinian and human rights groups. The military rebutted the report, saying the accounts were anonymous and impossible to verify.

Washington, Colombia near deal on base access

BOGOTA (AP)—The United States and Colombia are nearing agreement on expanding the U.S. military’s presence in this conflict-torn nation, likely basing several hundred Americans in a central valley in support of Air Force drug interdiction missions. Both sides say they hope a fifth round of talks slated for later this month in Bogota will seal a 10-year lease deal. Opponents worry a broadened U.S. military role in the world’s No. 1 cocaine-producing nation could antagonize Colombia’s leftist neighbors and draw Washington deeper into Colombia’s complicated, long-running conflict involving leftist rebels and right-wing paramilitaries.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,
vs.
MANASSES S. BORJA, Defendant.
CIVIL CASE NO. 98-0223A
NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Order Following Status Conference and Order to Auction Real Property, dated July 6, 2009, issued by The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Manasses S. Borja’s reversionary interest in Lot 099 E 1, located in Talofofo, Saipan, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property described as Lot 99 E 01, (formerly known as AH 268) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 099 E 01, the original of which was recorded 19 Dec 89 as Document No. 89-4295 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Saipan. It may be viewed and inspected one day prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Schedule of inspection can be made before July 22, 2009, by calling O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes with Telephone No. (670) 234-5684 and Fax No. (670) 234-5683.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
A) Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.
B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted as advance bid.
C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.
D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated, this 7th of July, 2009

/s/ O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Court-Appointed Auctioneer

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LHD Corporation dba: Night Girls


The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2009-1956, Lot # 008 H 20, Chalan Kanoa

Date : July 30, 2009, Thursday
Time : 6:00 pm
Place : Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 31, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FOR CBP PROJECT NO. CPA-009-CBP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The design services are to assist the CPA in preparation of its facilities at all airports and seaport on the three (3) islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the US Customs Border Protection (CBP).

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project)

- Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
- Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm’s professional integrity and competence; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2009.**


Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.


Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

William S. Pangelinan and Diana C. Pangelinan (collectively “Trustor”), on or about February 25, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 27, 1985 under Document No. 85-0479 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 124, containing an area of 1,092 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16707 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on June 12, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$51,150.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 13, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **August 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director NMHC
 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ENERGY POLICY REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 **DOCKET 09-5**

NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 [ARRA] includes in section 410(a) substantial energy grants for activities and initiatives, including energy efficiency and conservation. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI] is eligible to apply for these federal grants.

As a condition for accessing CNMI’s share of these grants, the Governor by his March 10, 2009 letter to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, provided assurance that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] has been requested to consider whether additional actions are necessary to promote energy efficiency consistent with ARRA and with the Commission’s duty to maintain just and reasonable rates. The Commission received this request on June 23, 2009. By order dated June 26, 2009, the Commission directed that a regulatory proceeding be commenced to examine the need to provide different or additional financial incentives to encourage the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s [CUC] electric customers to use energy more efficiently without raising the cost of conservation and increasing the cost to ratepayers of measurable, verifiable efficiency savings.

The purpose of this Request for Comments is to solicit input, viewpoints and information from the public, CUC, policy makers and the Commission’s regulatory consultant on the question of whether current incentives/rate structures are adequate to promote energy efficiency in the CNMI and to identify other issues, which should be considered in this inquiry. This inquiry is being conducted pursuant to Rule 23 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

CUC and the Commission’s regulatory consultant have been directed to file comments in response to this notice of inquiry on or before August 7, 2009. These comments will be available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan and in the Public Utilities section of its website: www.saipanchamber.com. The Commission requests that public comments be filed in writing on or before August 21, 2009 with the Commission c/o the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, either at its office or by email to kyle.calabrese@gmail.com.

The Commission will conduct a public workshop at 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2009 at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to consider the comments, which have been received in response to this notice and the report of its hearing examiner. The public is welcome to attend this workshop. All interested persons that file comments or request to be placed on the service list in this docket will receive Commission documents issued throughout this proceeding. Questions regarding this proceeding should be directed to Commissioner Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

July 14, 2009.

Off The Wall

Mich. boy, 6, gets ace using SpongeBob golf ball

ONEKAMA, Mich. (AP)—Braeden Furlow teed up his SpongeBob SquarePants ball from about 85 yards out, picked up a 3-wood and made a solid hit that bounced twice on the fairway before landing in the hole. Some golfers go their whole lives without marking down a “1.” Braeden’s hole-in-one was his first, but that shouldn’t be a surprise—he’s all of 6 years old.

“I told him he should stop playing because I don’t want

him to set the expectations too high on a regular basis,” Braeden’s father, Travis Furlow, told the News Advocate of Manistee for an article published online Monday night.

The lucky round happened on July 6, when the Dearborn family headed out to The Heathlands in Onekama, near their home in Manistee. It was Braeden’s fourth time on the links. On the eighth hole, his moment came.

“He hit it, made pretty solid contact and it bounced twice in

the fairway and caught that first cut and broke pretty hard right to left,” Travis Furlow said with a laugh. “It was wild. It was a lot of fun to watch it happen.”

Neither of Braeden’s parents has ever hit a hole-in-one, but they say he hasn’t rubbed it in.

“He handled it like a little gentleman,” his father said. “He’s been humble about it and we’ve talked about not bragging about it.”

And he’s eager to head out on the course again.

“I want to play golf,” Brae-

den said. “When I’m golfing, I’m going to work on getting a hole-in-one.”

Wisconsin court praises drunken concertgoer

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—An Illinois teen knew he was too drunk to drive home after a Dave Matthews Band concert south of Milwaukee. So he fell asleep in his car, only to be awoken by a state trooper. Travis Peterson, 19, of Dixon, Ill., said even though he told the officer he was drunk and sleeping it off, the trooper ordered him to leave because the lot was being cleared.

Once out of the parking lot, Peterson was arrested for drunken driving. He was subsequently found guilty and ordered to spend 60 days in jail.

A Wisconsin appeals court on Wednesday commended Peterson for doing the right thing by trying to sleep it off, and said the trial court was wrong not to let him argue that police had entrapped him.

The state had argued successfully at trial that people who choose to drink too much can’t argue they’ve been entrapped when stopped for drunken driving. The 2nd District Court of Appeals disagreed.

“Drinking alcohol to excess, while inadvisable and unhealthy, is not unlawful by itself,” the appeals court said.

It did not address the fact that Peterson was underage. Peterson’s attorney, Andrew Mishlove, said that was irrelevant given the other issues at stake.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man arrested with panties hanging from pants

ATHENS, Tenn. (AP)—A man has been charged with public intoxication after authorities said he was walking along Highway 11 with a pair of panties hanging out from his unzipped pants. According to The Daily Post-Athenian, 31-year-old man told deputies he had been at a pool party and stole them from a nearby home early Sunday. A search revealed the man had stuffed some 40 pairs of female undergarments into his pants, although he had thrown most of them to the ground as a deputy approached. The owner of the garments declined to prosecute but the man was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

Man arrested after refusing to lower his music

DERIDDER, La. (AP)—A 27-year-old man was arrested and booked with disturbing the peace and resisting an officer after he refused to turn down his music. The Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office responded to the man’s home around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, and asked him to turn down the music on his stereo. Not only did the man refuse to turn down the volume, deputies said he turned it up and became belligerent. The man was booked into jail and released in lieu of \$1,250 bond.

Mo. jail to host ‘bed and breakfast’ event

HILLSBORO, Mo. (AP)—Want to spend a night in jail? And how about paying for the privilege? The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department in eastern Missouri has come up with a novel way to pay for mattresses at a new jail addition. Officials are offering the public a chance to stay overnight on July 31 at the recently finished addition. For \$50 a person or \$90 a couple, people can tour the new facility, learn more about jail, and stay overnight. They’ll receive Jefferson County “bed and breakfast” T-shirts, snacks—and souvenir mug shots. Also included is a “get out of jail free” card. Those who want to leave early have to give another \$10. Proceeds benefit the county’s jail maintenance fund.

Bride’s bouquet crashes plane in Italy

ROME (AP)—A romantic wedding in the Tuscan countryside ended with injuries after an attempt to launch the bride’s

bouquet from a plane brought down the tiny aircraft. Italian police say two people were hurt in the crash of the ultralight plane after the bridal bouquet they launched got caught in the aircraft’s rear rotor. The flowers blocked the engine, bringing the plane down by a youth hostel. Police in the nearby town of Piombino said Tuesday the pilot was lightly injured in Saturday’s crash, while the passenger who threw the bouquet had several broken bones. The bride and groom were not aboard the plane.

Man caught in the buff at N. Indiana cemetery

ELKHART, Ind. (AP)—A 51-year-old man told a police officer he was naked in a northern Indiana cemetery because he had taken off his wet clothes after checking on his in-laws’ grave and then wanted a closer look at some flowers. The officer was off duty and jogging through Rice Cemetery in Elkhart Sunday afternoon when he saw the naked man get into a truck and drive away. The officer later tracked down the Mishawaka man from his license plate number. The man said he had been golfing all day and that he undressed in his truck because his underwear was wet. He said he left his truck naked to look at the flowers because he did not have his glasses. He was arrested on a preliminary misdemeanor charge of public indecency.

PETA suggests nondairy Michael Jackson sculpture

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have come up with an idea for sculptor Sarah Pratt and the Iowa State Fair—instead of using butter for a Michael Jackson sculpture, how about a nondairy spread? Officials with the fair, known for its butter cow, announced days after Jackson’s death that they also would display a sculpture of the King of Pop. Last Wednesday, they said they would let the public decide in an online ballot. Iowa State Fair marketing director Lori Chappell said as of Tuesday more than 70,000 people have voted on the Web site. Chappell said early on, most people voted ‘no.’ Since then, there has been a surge of ‘yes’ votes. Meanwhile, PETA recommends using something called “Earth Balance,” which it describes as a “nondairy buttery spread” if there is a Jackson sculpture.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp




NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
(This Ad paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds)

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2008		Public Facilities	Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Rehabilitation of Buildings B, F, and G	Cancelled	\$800,000.00	
2008		Public Facilities	CNMI Football Complex	New		\$800,000.00

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., August 7, 2009, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Zenie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Also, a public hearing regarding the reprogramming will be held at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria on August 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Public comments will also be welcomed at such time. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 26, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PAINT SUPPLIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RIA-001-09**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of new paint supplies for the terminal building at the Rota International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of New Paint Supplies for the Rota International Airport Terminal Building”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 17, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-026

"SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PERIMETER FENCING PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a perimeter fence at Sinaplo Elementary School in Rota, CNMI.

The Scope of Work and detailed specification are available beginning July 03, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print located in Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Pre-Bid meeting On-Site** will be scheduled for interested contractors at 9:00 AM on July 21, 2009. The deadline for the submission of questions will be on July 23, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-026**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 10:30 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-027

"DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ONE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM AT SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive bids for the demolition and construction of one kindergarten classroom at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan, CNMI.

The Scope of work and detailed specification are available beginning July 3, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post located at Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting On-Site** is scheduled for 10:00 AM on July 22, 2009. The deadline for the submissions of questions will be on July 24, 2009. Bids submitted by Bidders who did not attend this meeting will be rejected.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-027**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and address to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-029

"SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NEW "BUTLER" ROOFING MATERIAL FOR ROTA SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Supply & Installation of New "Butler" Roofing Material for Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota, CNMI.

The Scope of Work and detailed specification are available beginning July 03, 2009, at the Pacific Quick Print & Post located in Middle Road Garapan. There will be a charge to contractors for copy fees.

A **Pre-Bid Meeting On-Site** will be scheduled for interested contractors at 10:30 AM on July 21, 2009. The deadline for the submission of questions will be on July 23, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**PSS IFB 09-029**" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and will be submitted to PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than July 29, 2009 at 9:30 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to David Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 09-031

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR PSS HEAD START PROGRAM"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for **Janitorial Services for the PSS Head Start Program**. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950.

All bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**IFB 09-031**" containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **July 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or E-mail to the following address: florian@saipan.com.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. /s/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement Officer

Science & Technology

Steps forward in Web browsers

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Considering it didn't even exist 19 years ago, the Web browser has done pretty well. No other program on a computer can do so many things—e-mail, mapping and calendars, to name a few—thanks to all the Web services now available.

And few other software markets offer as much competition as the browser business. Microsoft's Internet Explorer, after years of neglect, has seen welcome upgrades lately, but competing browsers have advanced further. The one most responsible for terminating IE's monopoly, Mozilla Firefox, received a major update days ago, following new releases of two others, Apple's Safari and Google's Chrome, over the past two months.

Choosing among these three non-Microsoft contenders—all offering such core features as “tabbed browsing” (viewing of multiple pages in one window), Web-search shortcuts and automatic blocking of suspected hostile sites—may not be easy.

The major benefit in the new Firefox 3.5 (a free download for Windows 2000, XP or Vista, Mac OS X 10.4 or 10.5, and recent versions of Linux at mozilla.com) comes from new software to run the JavaScript code in many Web pages. Firefox's developers, led by a Mountain View, Calif.-based nonprofit, tout this component as “more than twice as fast” as Firefox 3's software. Tests with a benchmarking site suggested that 3.5 is closer to three times as fast—but slower than the new Safari and Chrome releases.

Firefox 3.5's private-browsing options do better at catching up to competitors. You can now set this browser, like Safari, Chrome and IE, to keep no records of a browsing session. But Firefox's implementation also works retroactively; you can tell it to forget that you visited any particular page, or every site viewed in the past hour or two.

Other new features will need help from Web developers. For example, Firefox 3.5's “geolocation”—with your permission, it can estimate your physical location and pass that to a site—could lend desktop Web use the sort of location-aware smarts common on smartphones. And its support for free audio and video formats could give Internet users multimedia options beyond Adobe's often sluggish Flash player.

Aside from such interface tweaks as the ability to tear off a tab to view in a new window, Firefox 3.5 looks much like Firefox 3. And that's not bad: This browser's plain toolbar-and-menus looks shouldn't alarm people upgrading from Microsoft's obsolete Internet Explorer 6.

Firefox also offers quick, automatic updates—when a new version ships, the browser downloads and runs a small patch file instead of making you sit through a reinstall—and lets tinkering types play with thousands of free add-ons that provide extra capabilities.

Apple's Safari 4, shipped June 8 and a free download for Windows XP and Vista or Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.5 at apple.com/safari, brings a different bundle of benefits. In addition to its own JavaScript acceleration, Safari 4 offers a cleaner interface with a nifty “Top Sites” view that shows thumbnail previews of your most-visited sites. And in Windows, this browser no longer looks like a Mac refugee.

But in Windows, Safari 4 also needed twice as much memory as Firefox and Chrome. Its address auto-complete feature isn't as smart about remembering where you've been, and its Web-search box connects only to Google (or, in Windows, Yahoo).

Safari 4 throws in such helpful extras as simpler bookmarks editing and a one-click shortcut to fill in forms with your contact info. But outside of a Mac, where these features tie into OS X applications such as the Address Book, it's hard to justify making Safari your only browser.

Google's Chrome 2 arrived in late May. This free download for Windows XP and Vista (google.com/chrome) uses less memory than either Firefox or Safari and occupies less screen real estate, too, as it lets you type either a Web address or a Web search into one box in its window. And it runs each open page as a separate computing task, so one malfunctioning page doesn't blow up the whole browser. (IE 8 provides a comparable feature, as will Safari 4 when running on Apple's next version of OS X.)

But Chrome offers minimal bookmarking support, relying instead on address auto-completion and the shortcuts to most-visited sites that it shows when you open a new tab. It also cannot yet subscribe to the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) updates published by many sites or allow users to install third-party extensions.

Wonder what would happen if we could mix the best parts of these browsers? We can: The open-source code of Firefox and Chrome can be improved and reused by others. Safari, in turn, runs on an open-source framework that has itself shown up in other browsers—including Chrome and those on the iPhone, the new Palm Pre and devices running Google's Android software.



HELP FILE

Recycling old electronics

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. I've got an old analog TV collecting dust at home. How can I recycle or safely dispose of it?

A. The environmental hazards of old television sets and other consumer-electronics detritus—for instance, lead in a TV's cathode-ray tube and mercury in a flat-panel screen—haven't grown less serious. But your choices for minimizing those risks have improved since I wrote about them last summer.

First, you can try to sell or donate the old set. Several readers have said they've found a home for an old TV through the

Freecycle site (freecycle.org).

If that doesn't work, most cities and counties allow residents to drop off old electronics for safe disposal. But drop-off events may not happen every week and may require a trek to a distant trash-transfer station; check your local government's Web site or call its recycling office for details.

Most of those programs charge a small fee, \$10 to \$20 a set, to cover the cost of breaking down a TV safely. But you may be able to lower your cost if you use a store or manufacturer's recycling program. Best Buy (bestbuy.com/recycling) accepts two items a day per household; although it charges \$10 for most TV sets, it provides a \$10 store gift card in return.

Some manufacturers will take back their old products free at designated sites, with items from other vendors accepted for a small fee. Panasonic, Sharp and Toshiba (mrmrecycling.com); LG (wm.com/lg); Samsung (samsung.com/recycling-direct); and Sony (sony.com/recycle), among others, have set up recycling programs along these lines. You can also consult a site run by the Consumer Electronics Association, myGreenElectronics (mygreenelectronics.org), which offers a searchable database of services.

For an independent evaluation of recycling efforts, see the grades posted by the Electronics TakeBack Coalition (electronicstakeback.com).

Life & Style

Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan, by Wang Chun Yu

Wang Chun Yu labored for almost a decade in Saipan as a garment factory worker, and she did us all a favor by keeping a diary, reflecting on the odyssey and setting it down in a language that is her second, but in the thought patterns and idioms of her first.

Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin is a narrative account of a reflected life, brought to print by our intrepid Saipanpreneur.

First, the book. Short of two hundred pages, including photos in the midsection, the font is simple and the lead titles enticingly fragmented, splintered and chipped. ‘W’ left no identifying marks on the foreword.

The title page includes four characters, which in Pinyin is written as *ji mao suan pi*, chicken feathers and garlic skin, described in the book as “petty things; things of no importance; things often overlooked as having no merit or value.” This is true, but is also paradoxically true to mean, in the Sino *yinyang* understanding as a thing of no merit or value but blown out of proportion, as in “making a mountain out of a mole hill.” Both sense, I think, is applicable in viewing the narrated incidents.

Hou bian qian mian lang hou pa hu is an approximation of the characters above the heading of Chapter 1 about wolves and tigers. This saying advises alertness as well as belligerence, though more akin to the sergeant calling his troops to attention, rather than raising the blood pressure to anxiety level. This tone of facticity makes for an easy read, devoid of the sentimentalism of the Romance languages, and the abstraction of the Greco-Byzantine that have heavily influenced English.

Now, the story. Chun Yu was in her mid-20s when she decided to leave her city of Wu Xi in the river plains of Jiangsu Province west of the Municipality of Shanghai. With much fear and trepidation, as well as excitement and anticipation, she joined 17 other women in search for better employment in an island she had never heard of before, at a distance many times farther than she had ever traveled in her lifetime, and away from a family-centered environment that regarded filial piety and family relations as prime virtues up and down the social scale.

Reluctant to leave her family, Chun Yu, however, had the incentive of a loveless marriage, and the challenge of supporting her son on the other side of a seemingly indifferent husband whose earnings is never quite sufficient to meet the needs of the family.

For those familiar with the working conditions surrounding many of the garment factories in its 23 years of existence, the exploitation of a reticent and compliant labor force that, save for the word and reality of “slavery” in the American experience, would easily be considered the darkest hour in the history of economic exploitation in this otherwise exceptional experiment in political democracy called the United States of America.

Of the 36 garment factories that operated in the CNMI, Chun Yu would work for six of them in a span of nine years, hitting the factory line in one of them twice.

Chun Yu's diary recorded the bickering and jealousies that attended organizational structures dependent on status and face, and the requirements of proscribed “respect.” She describes inhumane living conditions that early on, Washington Rep. Juan Babauta had the temerity to expose, inviting upon himself eternal enmity from powerful quarters. I first visited the CNMI 20 years ago, and resided on Saipan the last 10, concurrent to Chun Yu's narrative. The image of 20 workers crammed into a 40-footer container *sans* windows and toilet facilities is indelibly etched in my consciousness.

Ms. Wang missed the much publicized incidents of workers using the small remnants

of cloth cuttings for toilet, which invariably clogged the septic tanks and the sewage systems, but she has enough comments about the barracks and the meal arrangements, the various extra deductions on the payroll, and the numerous nefarious scams that attended the taking advantage of one's own compatriots to make one's hair stand on end.

Intentionally or unconsciously, Chun Yu also reveals the prejudices she brings from her social milieu: the putdown on the country folks and the characterization of what would be considered “butch” haircut among those she intuitively considered as short of compassion, or outside the pale of common humanity.

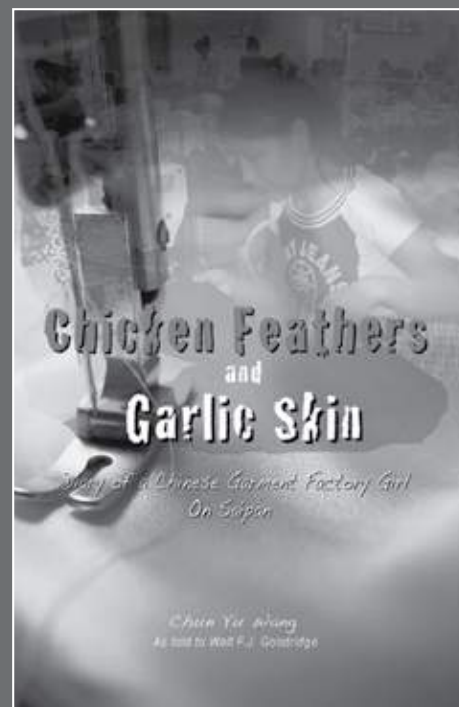
The Chinese language does not lend itself to emotional outpourings or imaginative allusions comparable to medieval Europe, and that is a plus in

reading Ms. Wang's account. Indeed, her book could very well be an example of the emerging Sino-English I've noted elsewhere. China and its more than a billion people have decided to embrace English as its second language, and though most schools teach the standard English spoken in New England, the British Isles and Australia, Ms. Wang demonstrates what I would recommend as an authentic way of language use—to stay within the thought patterns of one's native tongue and translate them to the words of the acquired one.

It took a while for the Council for the Humanities to coax Lino Olopai to finish his *Rope of Tradition*. It has been trying to have the experiences of post-WWII Filipinos be set down, to no avail. Chun's example shows that we do not, in the first instance, migrate as a representative of a race but as individuals with deeply rooted rationales for making such a drastic uprooting from familiar moorings. And it does not require federal funding to produce the product.

“W” would do well to follow up a published op-ed and organize folks from various nationalities to a workshop where they would be encouraged and get guidelines on how to set down and publish recollections and memories. This presumptive writer will line up for the course!

As for Ms. Wang, we trust that this literary effort will not be her last.



A book review after a fashion

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Midnight hour strikes with \$22M for 'Harry Potter'



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Bonnie Wright as Ginny Weasley, left, and Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter has conjured up a record-breaking witching hour.

The latest adventure of the teen wizard, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," took in \$22.2 million domestically from midnight screenings, distributor Warner Bros. said Thursday.

Dave Chappelle show draws thousands in Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Thousands of people who learned through text message, Twitter and word-of-mouth that comedian Dave Chappelle would hold a free show filled a downtown Portland square late Tuesday and early Wednesday.

Chappelle arrived at about 1 a.m. to a surge of camera phone-wielding fans. There was only problem—a small amplifier left the comic inaudible to most.

It's not clear why Chappelle was in Portland, and what led him

to Pioneer Courthouse Square. "I'm not here for money," he told the crowd.

Chappelle is best known for his sketch-comedy program that ran on Comedy Central. In May 2005, he walked away from a \$50 million deal to continue the popular show.

Most people went to the square at the last minute, after receiving a text or other communication. Chappelle, who had no security or entourage, said he expected 200 people to

gather—not the thousands that stood shoulder-to-shoulder. Chappelle at one point announced that someone was going to retrieve a better sound system, and would return in 20 minutes. When the man came back, spectators fed power cords to the edges of the square to plug them in. But apparently there was no power.

Though the show fizzled, the mood remained festive and there were no arrests. Chappelle left the square shortly after 2 a.m.

Emmys boost nominees' field; who's the winner?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Emmy Awards stopped well short of an Oscar-sized doubling of its nominations, but an extra slot in top categories could freshen—or popularize—the contest.

With six possible nominees for each of the acting and series awards, "Battlestar Galactica" might break the TV academy bias against sci-fi when the nominees are announced Thursday—or vampire saga "True Blood" could shatter the resistance to fantasy.

Younger, edgier stars who tend to fight for recognition might finally get it. Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" and Anna Paquin, already a Golden Globe winner this year for "True Blood," are among the worthy.

Whether the outcome will approach last year's Emmy victory by "Mad Men"—the first basic cable show to be honored as best drama series—is unlikely.

"Last year was a very major breakthrough year," John Leverence, the academy's senior vice president of awards, said. A return to routine would be just fine with the major broadcast networks. They've seen their offerings increasingly eclipsed in the awards by cable series,

particularly dramas, that claim smaller audiences but louder critical buzz.

A series such as "Mad Men," which might top out at 1.5 million viewers compared to 16 million-plus for CBS' hit "The Mentalist," could also be blamed in part for shrinking Emmy Awards audiences. Last year's ceremony was the least-watched ever, with 12.3 million viewers.

The Oscars boosted its best-picture field from five to 10 in hopes of including more popular fare and swelling its also dwindling audience, and the Emmys could see the same result from its more modest increase in nominees.

The selection process for the expanded Emmy categories also switched from a combination of academy popular vote and blue-ribbon panels to popular vote alone. Whatever the effect of the change, some shows face unique obstacles. That includes "Battlestar Galactica" and its deserving star James Olmos.

"We've never seen, historically, that sci-fi has a lot of traction with Emmy voters" beyond technical awards, said Leverence. He noted the lack of "marquee" acting or series honors for that TV classic, "Star Trek."

Academy voters may also have nostalgia in mind this year, with several high-profile shows having wrapped last season and taking their last shot at trophies. They include "ER," "The Shield" and "Boston Legal" as well as "Battlestar Galactica."

Departed shows or stars may not see much love, with some predictable exceptions, said TV editor Daniel Fienberg of the entertainment Web site HitFix.com.

Emmy voters "are always happy to give (nods) to William Shatner and James Spader for 'Boston Legal,' even though most viewers have no recollection that 'Boston Legal' was even on this year," Fienberg said.

For the most part, he expects this year's nominations to be a rerun, with major categories filled mostly with repeat contenders.

Besides "Mad Men," last year's top winners included comedy series "30 Rock" and its stars Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey, and drama series actors Bryan Cranston of "Breaking Bad" and Glenn Close of "Damages."

The 61st Primetime Emmy Awards, with Neil Patrick Harris as host, are scheduled to air live Sept. 20 from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

for "Harry Potter" after that last movie. The two-year lag since "Order of the Phoenix" was the longest fans have had to wait for a new "Harry Potter" flick since the first movie arrived in 2001.

Warner originally planned to release "Half-Blood Prince" last November but bumped it to 2009 to take advantage of an open weekend in Hollywood's busy summer schedule.

"We're sorry that it caused some angst with our fans, but they're troopers, and they came out and supported the movie," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner.

The new movie has Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) trying to pry loose a hidden memory from one of his teachers, who holds key information about the wizard world's darkest en-

emy, Lord Voldemort.

Earning some of the best reviews in the franchise's history, the new "Harry Potter" tale played to packed crowds in 3,003 theaters for its midnight debut. Domestically, that theater count climbed to 4,275 later Wednesday, and 50 more cinemas will be added Friday.

With that kind of market saturation, "Half-Blood Prince" could set other new box-office highs—both for the "Harry Potter" franchise and Hollywood in general.

"It's definitely within reach of some of the biggest records in box-office history," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com

"Order of the Phoenix" also opened on a Wednesday and had the franchise's best five-day

debut at \$139.7 million. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" had the top three-day weekend opening of \$102.7 million.

"The Dark Knight" is the record-holder for best opening day (\$67.2 million), best weekend (\$158.4 million) and best five-day debut (\$203.8 million).

The seventh and final book in J.K. Rowling's fantasy series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is being split into two parts for the big screen, with the first movie due out in November 2010 and the second in July 2011.

David Yates, who directed both "Half-Blood Prince" and "Order of the Phoenix," also is making the final two films.

"We just wish there were another four books," Fellman said.

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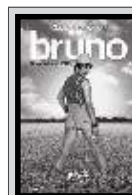
Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:10 7:15 10:10
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:10 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13

Synopsis

Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Together they work to find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses and, to this end, Dumbledore recruits his old friend and colleague, the well-connected and unsuspecting bon vivant Professor Horace Slughorn, whom he believes holds crucial information.



Bruno

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 4:15 7:30

Sacha Baron Cohen, Gustaf Hammarsten
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Borat trickster Sacha Baron Cohen returns to the big screen to offer yet another stinging dose of sociopolitical satire in this comedy that finds him assuming the persona of gay fashionmonger Bruno, the self-proclaimed "voice of Austrian youth TV." Originally conceived as part of Cohen's cult television series Da Ali G Show, the character of Bruno offered a cleverly costumed Cohen the opportunity to highlight the absurdities of the fashion industry by interviewing unsuspecting fashion icons and other haute couture hangers-on.



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
 Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

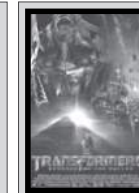
After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scrat is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



Public Enemies

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale
 Crime Drama • Rated R



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
 Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
 Family Drama • Rated PG-13



The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:05 7:10

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Woman is curious to know details of beau's divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have recently started seeing a wonderful man who is divorced. It doesn't bother me. I know we all make mistakes. My friends are telling me I need to find out why his marriage ended, because it might signal potential problems to watch out for. I understand their logic.

The problem is, I don't want to appear nosy and, of course, I would be hearing only one side of the story. So should I ask him or not—and if so, when and how?

INQUIRING MINDS NEED TO KNOW



Dear Abby

DEAR INQUIRING: I see no harm in asking now. The perfect time to have done it was when he told you he was divorced. You don't have to be heavy-handed about it. Treat him to—or cook him—a nice dinner and afterward say, “So tell me how come a gorgeous, intelligent man like you is divorced. Your ex must have been out of her mind to let you go.” Then shut up and listen.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter's landlady—I'll call her Martha—has become very close to our family. Martha and her husband are included in most of our family's social events.

My problem is Martha is allergic to garlic and cannot eat anything cooked with it.

Abby, we are Italian. We grew up eating garlic and cook just about everything with it. My husband and I are locking horns over the fact that I feel it's an imposition to be expected to accommodate one person by omitting a key ingredient in a dish. When you're cooking for a lot of people who are accustomed to the way certain foods are prepared, I feel it is inconsiderate for someone to expect me to leave an ingredient out. What do you think?

MAMA “MIA” IN N.Y.

DEAR MAMA “MIA”: I think you should prepare a garlic-free extra dish for Martha—something not too difficult to make, like a salad—or invite Martha over less often.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How does a person find direction? Career counselors have told me that I need “direction,” but they never tell me how to go about getting it.

I'm in my late 20s with two degrees and no specific job skills. I have had a few crummy jobs. I'm not afraid of hard work, but I don't know what sort of job I should be seeking.

I spent 10 years trying the touchy-feely “just follow your dreams” approach. Well, my dreams are to be financially independent and have a meaningful personal and intellectual life!

Is there another approach? How do I find a job that fits me? Perfect would be great, but at this point, I'm just shooting for good enough.

UNDIRECTED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR UNDIRECTED: The career counselors you consulted should have given you enough direction that it stimulated your thinking about ways to apply the knowledge you have worked so hard to earn. With their help you should have been able to identify some area of the profession you prepared for that would enable you to be financially independent. Because that didn't happen, I recommend you look further for career counseling because it appears the ones you consulted did a poor job.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Senator Ricky Ricardo? Coburn evokes Lucy show

WASHINGTON (AP)—One of Sonia Sotomayor's Senate interrogators had a joking response Wednesday when she talked hypothetically—and humorously—about getting a gun to shoot him in self-defense.

“You'll have lots of ‘splainin’ to do,” replied GOP Sen. Tom Coburn, evoking the 1950s TV show “I Love Lucy” to laughter from the crowd and the judge.

“I'd be in a lot of trouble, then,” Sotomayor quipped back.

What Coburn said—and how he said it—was a riff on a Hispanic television character, Ricky Ricardo, whose accent is now widely considered a broad parody.

In the show, the Cuban American bandleader Ricardo (played by Desi Arnaz) would often admonish his scatterbrained wife, Lucy, by saying she's got some “‘splainin’” to do. The phrase, “Lucy, you got some ‘splainin’ to do,” has since become part of the popular culture.

Yvette Melendez, a Glastonbury, Conn., woman attending Sotomayor's confirmation hearing to be the Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice, said she winced inwardly when Coburn made his comment but did not feel offended.

“I personally did not think it was appropriate,” she said. “But I'm sure he said it as a joke.”

The National Council of La Raza responded to an e-mail inquiring about Coburn's remark,



Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor talks with Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., the Senate Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, 15, 2009, prior to the start of her confirmation hearing before the committee.

Sotomayor, Franken both ‘Perry Mason’ fans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Turns out that Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor and Sen. Al Franken were Perry Mason fans as kids.

The two reminisced at her Senate confirmation hearing Wednesday after the Minnesota Democrat noted that he and his

family and Sotomayor and her family tuned in to the weekly television drama starring Raymond Burr as a defense lawyer.

The series originally ran on CBS from 1957 to 1966 and lived on in reruns for decades. Burr reappeared as Mason in TV movies in the 1980s and '90s.

Franken noted that Perry Mason won all his cases except one. He asked Sotomayor to name it, and she couldn't.

“Didn't the White House prepare you for that?” asked the comedian-turned-politician, prompting laughter in the hearing room.

saying it was unclear whether it was a badly told joke “or he's just clueless.”

“While quoting Ricky Ricardo isn't in and of itself a slur, in this context, it seems wildly inappropriate to say the least,”

said the group's spokeswoman, Lisa Navarrete.

Coburn's spokesman, John Hart, said Coburn was responding in kind to Sotomayor's lighthearted manner, talking hypothetically about a serious is-

sue, the right to self-defense and the Second Amendment.

“If Judge Sotomayor was offended by Dr. Coburn's lighthearted response, I'm sure Dr. Coburn will apologize to her,” Hart said.

Gentler ‘Bruno’ to play in UK for younger teens

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Bruno” is getting a makeover in Great Britain so younger teens can see the movie.

Universal Pictures UK is releasing an edited version of Sa-

cha Baron Cohen's comedy that will tone down the racy moments so it can earn a 15 certification from the British Board of Film Classification. That would allow those 15 and older to see it.

The version now playing has an adults-only 18 certification that prohibits those younger than 18 from seeing the movie.

The edited version runs one minute, 50 seconds shorter. It

opens in British theaters on July 24. Universal says it decided to offer an edited cut after theaters turned away large numbers of teens younger than 18 who wanted to see “Bruno.”

Robert Redford marries German girlfriend

HAMBURG (AP)—Robert Redford married his partner, a 51-year-old German artist, over the weekend, a German church said Wednesday.

Renate Massfeller of the St. Catherine Church in Hamburg said that Pastor Frank Engelbrecht presided over the wedding of the 72-year-old U.S. actor and artist Sibylle Szaggars at the luxury Louis C. Jacob Hotel.

The Hamburger Abendblatt newspaper said 30 friends and family members attended the service.

Szaggars, born in Hamburg, is an abstract artist whose work has been exhibited in Britain, Germany, the United States and elsewhere. She moved to Sundance, Utah—where Redford's Sundance Institute is based—in the 1990s, according to her Web site. A message seeking comment from Redford's publicist in New York was not immediately returned.

Redford has starred in dozens of films, including “The Sting” and “The Natural.” He won the Academy Award for best director for the 1980 film “Ordinary People.” In 1981 he founded



In this Oct. 27, 2008 file picture, actor Robert Redford, left, and fiancée Sibylle Szaggars are seen during the Sundance Institute celebration fundraiser in New York.

the Sundance Institute to create what its Web site called “an environment designed to foster independence, discovery and new voices in American film.”

Since then, it has grown to

encompass the Sundance Film Festival, one of the world's premier film festivals that focuses on independent film but also has become known for its parties and celebrities.

Paisley, Krauss to play White House

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country musicians Brad Paisley and Alison Krauss will play a high-profile gig next week at the White House.

A spokeswoman for Paisley said Wednesday that he and Krauss, who had a hit duet a few years ago with “Whiskey Lullaby,” will participate in the White House Music Series hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

On Tuesday afternoon, they'll help with an educational workshop for 120 middle and high school students from across the country.

That night, they'll play in the historic East Room for President Obama and his wife, White House staff and members of Congress.

Michelle Obama launched the series to encourage arts and arts education. It featured jazz last month and will continue in the fall with classical music.

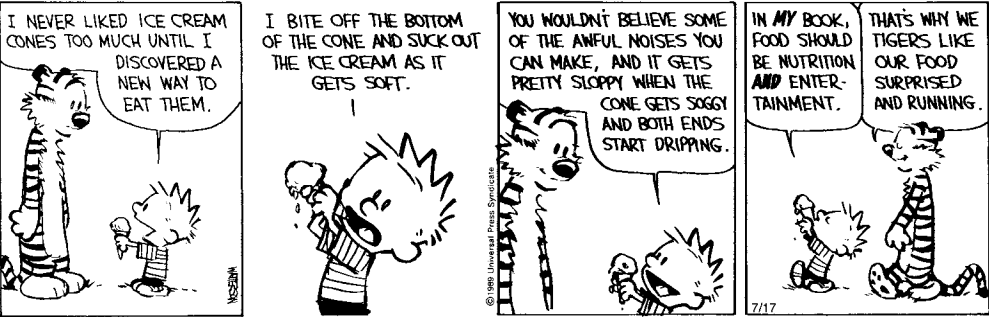
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

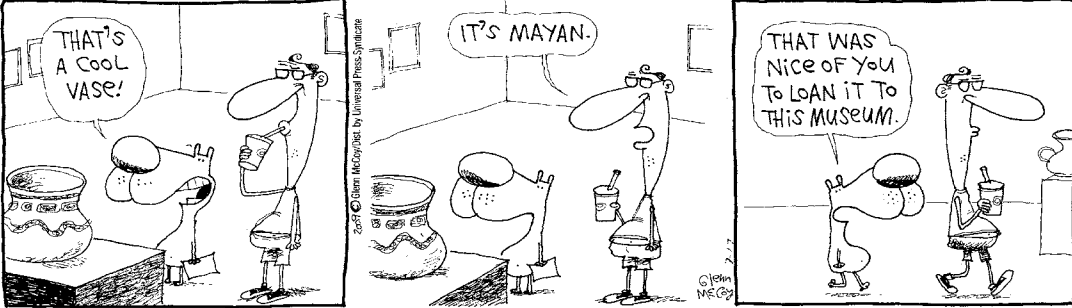
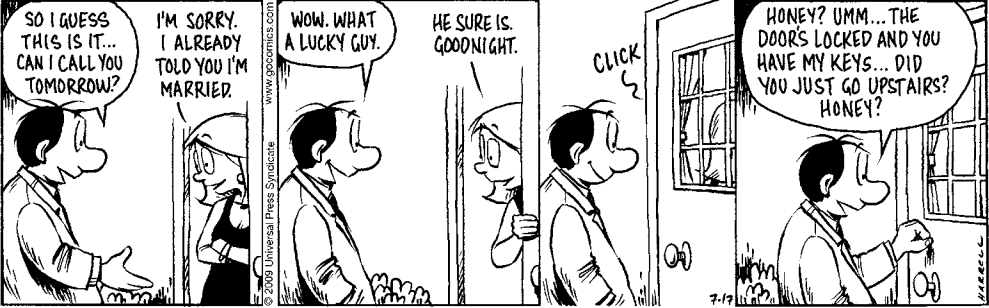


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Traffic light color 6 Prevent 9 Pump up the volume 12 Price 13 Mid-afternoon hour 14 Powell co-star 15 Old market-place 16 Decelerating 18 Defeats 20 Paper quantity 21 Schuss 23 Scratch 24 Available 25 Draftable 27 Subject 29 Messy domicile 31 Request 35 Swore, old-style 37 Do in a dragon 38 Possibly will

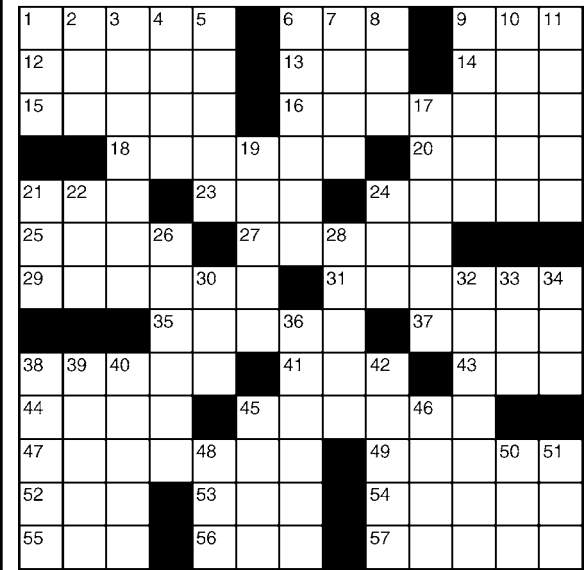
DOWN 41 Constitution letters 43 Raw rock 44 Hathaway or Heche 45 Be that as it may 47 Radiant 49 Skip a sound 52 "Platoon" locale 53 Bill's partner 54 Blanket carrier in comics 55 Sailor's assent 56 Conclusion 57 Trade-mark pictures

17 Utterly ruins 19 Mythical reveler 21 Enervate 22 Japanese pond carp 24 Towel designation 26 Shun 28 Chump 30 Ancient boy king 32 Circulating 33 Rowboat need 34 Reuben holder 36 Ra, e.g. 38 — Carta 39 Dentist's task 40 Garden statuette 42 Pie case 45 Unsigned (Abbr.) 46 Hodge-podge 48 Lemieux milieu 50 Pair with an air 51 Curvy letter

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	O	A	R	K	E	Y	A	B	E	D
O	G	R	E	A	G	E	N	A	V	E
B	L	E	D	N	O	W	G	L	I	B
S	E	A	D	O	G	S	P	E	L	L
E	R	A	S	L	Y					
F	A	W	N	R	A	V	I	S	H	E
O	V	A	O	B	I	O	E	R		
G	E	T	A	L	O	A	N	P	O	K
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S	H	R	U	G	S	A	S	T	R	A
T	A	L	L			O	W	L	H	O
A	L	O	E			L	O	O		
B	L	O	T			O	N	O	N	E

Yesterday's answer 7-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Natasha Hamilton, 27; Alex Winter, 44; J. Michael Straczynski, 55; Diahann Carroll, 74

Happy Birthday: You will be the glue that holds a team together, the anchor who helps to stabilize, the one who can mediate until everyone is on the same page. Your unique way of talking and dealing with others will lead to bigger and better opportunities. Change is heading your way but it's what you do this year that will set the standard for what's to come in the future. Your numbers are 3, 11, 13, 23, 25, 31, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's vital you deal swiftly with any personal affront you face. Concentrate on making your home more comfortable. Easing the stress in your life will help you become more productive, so take care of any problems you are facing. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get ready to fight back if someone tries to take advantage of you. Good things will happen if you put your time and effort into what really counts. Don't run from change—embrace it and make it work for you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have to bend a bit in order to get what you want. Putting up a fight will be a waste of time and will accomplish little. Have your facts straight before you indulge in a healthy debate. Your ability to spar intellectually will impress someone influential. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Set aside a certain amount of time and money for something special. A trip will do you

good. A proposal you present will draw attention and lead to an enticing counteroffer. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a lid on your true feelings, especially if you are worried about something that may or may not happen. You don't want to promote someone who may end up being your biggest competitor. Look out for your own interests and don't let your emotions lead you. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't deviate from your set plans or you will face ridicule. Hands-on efforts will bring you the best results and will allow you to stay in control while you massage situations to favor what you want and need to get ahead. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Back away from anyone who is pushy or giving you ultimatums. Focus on the people you love or get in touch with someone from your past whom you miss. A creative idea will take off if you present it properly to someone with similar insight. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone who is painting a pretty picture will disappoint you. Ask questions so you are fully aware of what's being offered. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Be pragmatic in your approach. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you feel someone is using you, back away. An emotional issue will be brought to the surface and must be dealt with immediately if you don't want to face controversy and possible embarrassment at a later date. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put an end to anyone trying to push you into paying for something that isn't your responsibility. You can turn something negative into a positive and make a little extra money on the side doing what you do best. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will mislead you. Love is in the stars and engaging in activities you both enjoy will bring you closer together. Spend time at home fixing things. **

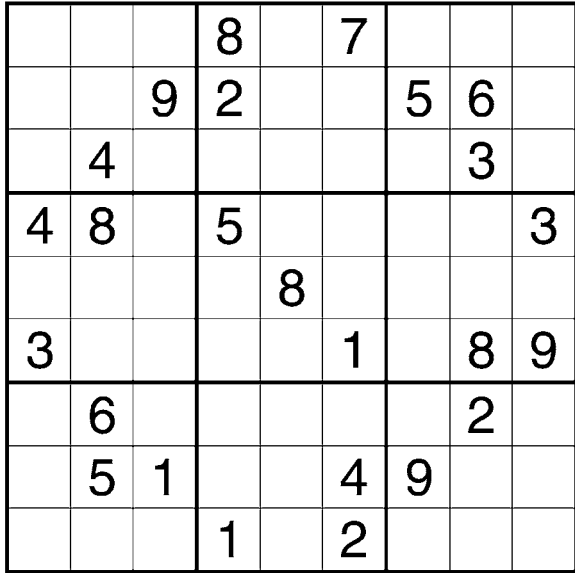
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be more protective of your private plans. Take people by surprise. Being too impulsive will backfire, leaving you in an awkward position that will result in questions and complaints. ****

Birthday Baby: You are a good listener and an attentive friend. You are strong-willed and are expressive, understanding and compassionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

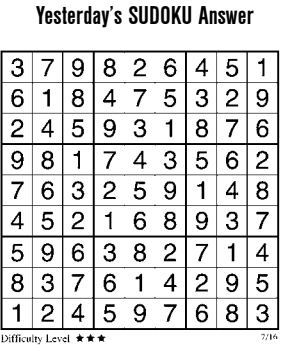
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/17 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STUDYING FOR THE BAR EXAM Solution: 6 letters

C G S E L S L C G N I T I R W
S O L I C I T O R E E R G E D
S V N E S N B R S I E D I A L
S E E S A Y E R A S M V A D A
E R T R T R L D A T E I R R O
C N Q O A I N A I R E R N E G
O M U P N P T P N V Y G T A S
R E E R A C E U G A E G I S L
P N S A N A A R T N U T S E T
R T T C O L C S P I I A E W S
O R I T I L H U D Y O S S T B
B U O I T E L E G A L N S E O
L O N C O D S E L U R R U A J
E C S E M E S T E R R Y L P
M A T E R I A L Y T L U C A F

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Analysis, Called, Career, Constitutional, Court, Criminal, Degree, Essay, Evidence, Faculty, Goal, Government, Grade, Guides, Jobs, Learn, Legal, Library, Material, Motion, Notes, Passing, Practice, Prepare, Problem, Process, Pursue, Questions, Read, Review, Rules, Semester, Serve, Solicitor, Strategies, Stress, Teach, Test, Trusts, Writing
Yesterday's Answer: Health
We returned to your request! TREASURY #6 is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$14.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-942-6462. Order online at apuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Norma 'Normae' E. Patanao is no longer connected with **Philpan International Corp. dba MC Asia International Corporation**; therefore any transaction made by her on behalf of the company from the date she was terminated is null and void.

Customer Service Representative Full-time Employment

Are you a friendly, dependable, outgoing, hardworking and a great team player?

Successful applicant must

- Have a high school diploma or have a GED equivalent
- Able to demonstrate great people skills
- Strong Math and English skills
- Have a reliable transportation
- Be available to work at any of our 3 stations
- Be able and willing to learn new skills, take directions, and follow company policies
- Be able to work flexible schedule including Sundays and Holidays

Applications are available @ Shell Gualo Rai, Shell San Roque, and Shell Susupe. Turn in at any of our Delta Management Stations.

FOR LOCAL HIRE ONLY
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?

Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:	Benefits:
■ US Citizen or IR Status	■ Competitive salary
■ High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher	■ Health Insurance
■ Police Clearance	■ Life Insurance
■ Previous work experience	■ Dental Insurance
■ Computer Skills	■ Retirement Plan
■ Credit Check	■ Productivity Bonuses
■ Bright and friendly	■ Profit Sharing
■ Letter of recommendation from previous employer	■ Generous Leave Benefits
	■ Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...



Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Face up to the facts

4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom House for Rent

Centrally located in Garapan, fenced yard, equipped with water reserve tank, split type air-conditioners in every room. Nice and friendly neighborhood.

Available end of June.

Please call 484-0770 for more info.
NMHC applicants welcome!

AUTOMOTIVE

Toyota Tacoma PreRunner 05 Dbl cab, clean, runs great, low miles \$13,200 OBO must sell by July 17 (671) 777-9291-Freddie

WANTED TO LEASE

Need 4-or-more BR house ASAP. Recently relocated to Saipan, need safe family home. All replies considered. Brian 323-2009

Looking for 2 or 3-Bedroom house with garage for long-term lease. Please call SK Community at 285-1654.

EMPLOYMENT

Palau Distributor Beverage/Tobacco Looking for Sales Manager/ Accounting/Office Manager Email: hr@ptcsaipan.com

INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

I am looking for a partner with a profitable investment proposal, to invest some fund. Contact me immediately at the information below provided you can guarantee the security of my investment capital, kindly furnish me with full business details and proposal for a Joint venture partnership with you. Please send e-mail to: **mrwolfgang002@gmail.com** Contact name: **Wolfgang Brustellin**

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA No. 09-023	Information Technology Specialist (One position)
JVA No. 09-024	Information Technology Manager (One position)

Location: Administration, Saipan.

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

THE FACTS A F

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Cor. Chivegiti St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF

MARGARITA B. SEMAN,
Deceased.

CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 09-0273

NOTICE
OF
HEARING

**TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND
CREDITORS:**

Notice is hereby given that Richard B. Seman, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Margarita B. Seman, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for July 28, 2009, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

WANTED

Cook-Japanese/Western Food, 3 yrs. Exp.

Used Furniture and Equipment for Restaurant

Call: 285-4774

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Needs Service Agents

who are friendly sales-oriented &
willing to work flexible hours.

Apply at airport location.

288-2847



Xanadu Club, Inc.

Vacation Homes & Condo Rentals

Administrative Assistant
Purchasing Supervisor
Local Hire with CNMI driver's license


Waitstaff (Room Service)
Front Desk Clerks (Chinese Speaking is a plus)

LOCAL HIRE ONLY

Please email your resume to:
suzette.sasamoto@usxanadu.com or admin@usxanadu.com

Drunk Driving

Over the limit. Under arrest.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW09-RFP-029

DESIGN BUILD OF COMMONWEALTH DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design Build of Commonwealth Drive Drainage Improvement** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **July 10, 2009** at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the south side of Garapan Central Park at 1:00 P.M. on July 29, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr.**, Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **August 03, 2009**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and Background of the Company- 40%;
- Past experience of the contractor on design builds projects and successfully completions- 15%;
- Capability and ability to perform the work and completed within the time frame- 10%; and
- Costs-35%.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW09-RFP-029**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 10, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 10, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, August 10, 2009 and must be received no later than August 19, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made, therefore, negotiation shall be conducted with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION – PACKAGE 2, PHASE 2, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-53/58.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Airport Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation to include milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, grooving and marking of surfaces; and the restoration of Taxiway "A", Replacement of Runway Edge Lights and Guidance Signs, and the installation of lighted wind cones all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time)** of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages)** of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-27 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2009**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: July 2, 2009



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP09-GOV-114

"Saipan Geothermal Project"

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect scientific data to determine the availability/existence of geothermal energy on Saipan.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect extensive data will require the successful proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently deep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, or upon request by email to procurement@pticom.com. Interested proposers may submit questions or inquiries regarding this RFP, by email only and **in pdf. format** no later than July 10, 2009, and addressed to fmsablan@gmail.com. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than July 14, 2009.

Sealed proposals must be submitted with one (1) original, five (5) hard copies, and one (1) digitized version to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at the date and time stated below. Proposals may also be submitted by email to procurement@pticom.com, no later than 10:00 a.m., July 20, 2009, and marked "RFP09-GOV-114 Saipan Geothermal Project".

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section NMIAC 70-30.3-210. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

A. Technical Factors

Qualifications of the Proposed Project Team
Feasibility and Technical Soundness of the Drilling Plan
Experience Doing Exploratory Drilling
Ability to Begin the Project within a Short Time after Award

30%
30%
20%
20%

B. Cost Factor

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase and the government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P & S

'Running out of time,' Favre steps up workouts



Quarterback Brett Favre throws a pass as he workouts with the Oak Grove High School football team as he prepares for his next move in the NFL, on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 in Hattiesburg, Miss. AP



HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—Brett Favre acknowledged he's "running out of time" to decide whether he'll play for the Minnesota Vikings this season.

The quarterback told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he'll give the Vikings an answer on whether he'll play by the July 30 start of training camp. Favre has been working out with the Oak Grove High School football team three days a week all summer, but added a Sunday workout this week.

"There's two weeks left and I'm doing every-

thing I can," Favre said. "I was down here Sunday morning working out. I'm trying to get everything to where I feel 100 percent when I go in. I can't go in any less. When you're 39 years old, it's hard enough. But it's getting there."

The former Packers and Jets quarterback said surgery to repair a biceps tendon in his throwing arm was successful and that he has enough velocity to return to the NFL. He's just not sure whether that means he'll be able to compete for an entire season.

"I felt like going to New York last year that I still had it," Favre said. "I didn't know my arm

was hurt at the time. So that's what I try to get across to people. I had that fixed, the surgery to fix that, so I'm trying to make sure that if I go back that part is completely resolved."

It sure looked like it Wednesday morning, when a jovial Favre hit a variety of passes to high school and college wide receivers. He was crisp on short timing passes and was hitting receivers in the end zone from about 50 yards away. He attempted a few deep passes off bootlegs and usually hit his targets in stride.

Favre's spirals held true and he proved he still has plenty of zip when he tossed a deep pass to a college receiver who dropped by to work out. The pass split the receiver's hands and hit him in the face.

"He's a senior from Southeastern Louisiana, so I put a little more on it," Favre said with a smile.

Favre said if the arm strength wasn't there, he wouldn't be making a bid to return for his 19th season in the league.

"I don't think Minnesota would even consider it if I didn't have it," Favre said. "Second of all, I wouldn't even think about it if I didn't have it. Now, having it here and having in on the field on Sundays is two different things, I know that for a fact. I know what it takes to play on Sunday and I still believe I have that."

Favre said his hesitation is more about what those watching him practice might not see. He used a golfing analogy to explain his situation. What if, he asked, Tiger Woods came back and found he didn't have the same game?

"He goes out and hits a 2 iron and he thinks it will go the normal distance it has all his life, then all of a sudden it's 13 yards short, and he says, 'I don't know why that is because everything felt perfect,' so that's what I have to get through," Favre said.

"If you're throwing and it's a little off and you have a little pain, it's a little bit understandable. If there's no pain and there's no excuse, that's where you've got a problem. So I want to go out and have one of those days throwing and then have another where all of those throws you make, every warmup throw you make or just in general, feels perfect."

Favre was released by the Jets earlier this year, clearing the way for him to sign with any team willing to take him. Dr. James Andrews performed surgery May 22 to address the injured biceps tendon, which hampered Favre down the stretch last season.

The Vikings have remained mostly quiet on the topic in recent weeks, preferring to let Favre work through his rehabilitation from the surgery and make up his own mind.

At a fan forum in June, owner Zygi Wilf made it clear officials were receptive to Favre joining the team and the decision was Favre's to make.

"Right now, it's all up to Brett Favre in terms of where his future is at," Wilf told about 1,200 fans gathered at the State Theatre. "I'll just leave it at that."

Coach Brad Childress has had sporadic conversations with Favre throughout the summer.

"He's trying to make a push to get back," Childress said in June. "I just know this, he won't play unless he feels like he's able to play at the level that he's played over the course of the years. I know he's working hard."

Suggs signs with Ravens, loses franchise tag

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs signed a six-year, \$63 million contract Wednesday, making him the highest-paid linebacker in NFL history.

The contract, which assures him \$38 million in guaranteed money, provides a long-term solution to Suggs' unsettled status as the team's franchise player.

"I'm looking forward to showing them that they didn't make a mistake and they got the right guy," said Suggs, the Ravens' franchise player for the past two seasons. The 6-foot-3, 260-pounder had until 4 p.m. Wednesday to work out a deal or face being stuck with the franchise tag for another year.

"I am glad it is over. Now we can get back to football," Suggs said. "Getting this done took compromises on both ends. I wanted to stay in purple and black, the Ravens wanted to keep me in purple in black, and they stepped up and showed me that."

Had Suggs not signed, he would have played the season for \$10.17 million and become a free agent next season.

"Getting a deal done with Terrell is consistent with our history of retaining our best Pro Bowl players, like Ray Lewis, Ed Reed, Jonathan Ogden, Todd Heap and Jamal Lewis," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "Securing Terrell for six seasons gives us a premier pass-rusher whose ability to stop the run does not get enough credit."

During his six years with the Ravens, Suggs has 53 sacks, forced 19 fumbles and has not missed a game. He led Baltimore with eight sacks last season and added four more in the postseason, including two in the AFC championship game against Pittsburgh after missing an entire week of practice with a shoulder injury.

"This will be Suggs' seventh season, and he is still a young player," Newsome said. "Remember, he came to us as a 20-year old rookie after his junior year in college. This is a good day for the Ravens franchise."

The 26-year-old Suggs was selected by the Ravens out of Arizona State with the 10th overall pick in the 2003 draft. The three-time Pro Bowl selection is considered one of the best pass-rushers in the league, and has also returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

"I'm going to continue to be the dominant player I've always been," Suggs said. "My best years are ahead of me."

As a franchise player, Suggs could have missed most of training camp. Now he will be expected to report with the rest of the veterans during the last week in July.

"I was already excited to start training camp, and now having Terrell there makes it that much better," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "He is a great player, a tremendous person and an outstanding young leader. He's a foundation for our defense to stay at the highest level."

Peppers, Panthers fail to agree on long-term deal

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The deadline for the Carolina Panthers to reach a long-term deal with franchise defensive end Julius Peppers has passed without an agreement.

Peppers will now play next season under a one-year deal worth at least \$16.7 million.

The Panthers had until 4 p.m. Eastern time to sign the four-time Pro Bowl pick to a deal that would secure his long-term future in Carolina

and free up salary-cap space this season.

Now the two sides can't discuss a new contract until the end of next season, when Carolina will have the option to place the franchise tag on him again.

The Panthers' career sacks leader had been locked in a prolonged dispute with the Panthers after first saying that he wanted to play elsewhere.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers retract offer to Odom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers have retracted an offer to Lamar Odom, saying that talks to re-sign the free agent have stalled. Lakers public relations director John Black said the team had taken the offer off the table in the past two days. "There are specifics behind why we pulled it, but that's not something we're going to get into," Black said. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Lakers owner Jerry Buss had offered Odom two deals. One was worth \$36 million for four years and the other was for \$10 million a season for three years. Odom, who will turn 30 in November, made \$14.1 million this past season. Black said talks with Odom's agent Jeff Schwartz have been on and off. "We haven't heard from him in the past few days

and talks have not been consistent," Black said. Odom played a key role off the bench in the Lakers' championship run. He averaged 12.3 points and 9.1 rebounds during the playoffs.

Pacers to re-sign McRoberts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers plan to re-sign free agent forward Josh McRoberts. McRoberts' agent, Bob Myers, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the parties had agreed to terms in principle. Myers said it was a two-year deal, but would not give a dollar amount. The Pacers made a qualifying offer to McRoberts last month, making him a restricted free agent. The athletic post player averaged 2.4 points and 2.2 rebounds last season. He had career highs of 12

points and nine rebounds on April 8 against Toronto. The Pacers have until the weekend to respond to Toronto's offer for guard Jarrett Jack, another player the Pacers made a restricted free agent with a qualifying offer.

Bulls re-sign G Lindsey Hunter

CHICAGO (AP)—Veteran guard Lindsey Hunter has re-signed with the Chicago Bulls and will return for a 17th NBA season. The team announced the move Wednesday. Hunter signed with the Bulls last November and averaged 2.6 points and 1.3 assists in 28 games. More important was the leadership and mentoring he provided, particularly to eventual Rookie of the Year Derrick Rose. Hunter has averaged 8.6 points and 2.7 assists for five teams over 16 seasons—most of them with Detroit.

Martinez ready for return to Phillies



PHILA-
DEL-
PHIA
(AP) —

Pedro Martinez promised to put on quite a show when he returns to the majors with the Philadelphia Phillies.

The NL East leaders are hoping it will be a vintage performance.

Martinez finalized a \$1 million, one-year contract with the Phillies on Wednesday, and can earn up to \$1.5 million in incentives. The three-time Cy Young Award winner hasn't pitched since last season and won only eight games in 25 starts over his final two seasons with the Mets.

"I might surprise you, I might not," Martinez said. "It's going to be really fun to go find out."

The Phillies are hoping Martinez has enough left to help them repeat as World Series champions. His dominating 20-win, 200-strikeout seasons are well behind him, but a healthy Martinez could provide a boost to a starting rotation that has been hit hard by injuries.

"I don't expect to be the same Pedro that I was when I was 26," the 37-year-old right-hander said. "There's a lot of innings I've pitched since then. It's not the same, but I still feel like I can still bring something to the table."

Martinez will need at least a few starts in the minors before he's ready to join Philadelphia's depleted rotation. The eight-time All-Star was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a shoulder strain but will be with the Phillies for their four-game series in Florida beginning Thursday.

General manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said he could pitch for the major league team in two to three weeks.

"Of course there's some risk here," Amaro said. "But we'd rather risk it on someone of his caliber and who knows how to win."



New Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Pedro Martinez holds up a jersey during a news conference in Philadelphia, Wednesday, July 15, 2009. AP

The risk stems from Martinez's age, his 2,700-plus career innings and the three consecutive injury-riddled seasons that derailed his career in New York. He made frequent trips home to the Dominican Republic last year to visit his dying father, an emotional burden he couldn't shed once he got the ballpark.

"The last few years have been horrible," Martinez said. "I'm not saying horrible because of the results. I haven't felt the way I wanted to feel. I wasn't the same Pedro you were accustomed to seeing."

The free agent pitched in the World Baseball Classic before this season. He went 5-6 with a 5.61 ERA for the Mets last year, and won only 32 games for them over the life of a \$53-million, four-year contract.

"I think I was too brave sometimes, or stupid sometimes, for

pitching not in the regular health that you should have been in," Martinez said. "Being a veteran, you should know that. Sometimes your desire, your inner thoughts about competing and the way you feel about competing, drags you to do sometimes things that you shouldn't do."

Martinez was upbeat, cracked jokes and told amusing stories in a wildly entertaining 45-minute press conference that ended with him holding his No. 45 jersey.

He said he was picky about what team he wanted to pitch for, and spurned other organizations to pitch for the Phillies. Martinez hoped the Mets would show interest, but understood why they passed.

"I didn't do as well as I wanted to," Martinez said. "I'm pretty sure they know it."

The defending World Series

champion Phillies lead the division by four games over Florida despite dealing with injuries in their rotation. Brett Myers had hip surgery in June. Antonio Bastardo, who replaced Myers, landed on the disabled list after making five starts. They have used nine starters through 86 games. They used only seven starters last season.

Martinez said if his health fails, he'll walk away.

"I'll be the first one convinced, really convinced, if I can do it or not," Martinez said. "If I don't do it, I'm going to go on and take myself out of baseball."

Martinez is 214-99 with a 2.91 ERA in 17 seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Montreal, Boston and the Mets. He helped the Red Sox win the World Series in 2004.

He won the Cy Young Award in 1997, 1999 and 2000, and has

led the AL in ERA, wins and strikeouts.

"I bring with me a legacy, I bring with me my last name," Martinez said.

Adding Martinez isn't expected to prevent the Phillies from pursuing All-Star Roy Halladay. The Toronto Blue Jays are listening to offers for the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, and Philadelphia already has expressed strong interest.

"This doesn't preclude us from doing other things with the club," Amaro said.

The Phillies came away impressed after watching Martinez pitch in the Dominican Republic. Amaro said Martinez threw mostly in the high 80s, but topped 91 mph in workouts.

"We felt like he threw well enough that it was the right time to make a move on him," Amaro said.

Report: Clemens case, former gym owner subpoenaed

NEW YORK (AP)—The Daily News is reporting that a former gym owner in the Houston area has been issued a subpoena by the Washington grand jury investigating whether Roger Clemens lied to Congress about using performance-enhancing drugs.

The newspaper, in a story posted on its Web site that cited unidentified sources, reported Kelly Blair received on Monday the subpoena ordering him to appear before the grand jury.

The Daily News also reported Blair told friends that several others associated with the gym, which was linked to the distribution of performance-enhancing drugs, have received subpoenas.

1-on-1 Elite Personal Fitness in Pasadena, Tex., closed last year.

Clemens' attorney, Rusty Hardin, did not return a call for comment by the Daily News.

Trainer Brian McNamee has told Congress and federal investigators he injected Clemens with performance-enhancing drugs from 1998 to 2001 or 2002.

Clemens has denied those claims.

One of McNamee's attorneys, Richard Emery, said he believes the subpoenas issued to Blair and his associates indicate the Justice Department has gone beyond McNamee's claims as it investigates Clemens.

Shaun Kelley, owner of a Houston training center who denied meeting Clemens or providing the pitcher with illegal substances, told the Daily News he had not received a subpoena. Kelly said he had taken a polygraph test for FBI investigators in April.

Farrar comes close to beating Cavendish at Tour



SAINT-
FARGEAU,
France
(AP) —

While Lance Armstrong and Alberto Contador put aside their rivalry in Wednesday's 11th stage of the Tour de France, Tyler Farrar almost became the first American rider to win a stage at this year's race.

Farrar was within half a bike length of catching British sprinter Mark Cavendish, who clinched his second consecutive win and fourth overall.

"It's frustrating to come second, but at the same time you can see there are only a few guys going that fast right now," Farrar said after the stage. "Today was great. It was really fast from (the last) 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) to

500 meters (from the line)."

The 25-year-old Farrar, a U.S. junior national champion in 2002, upset Cavendish earlier in the season to win the third stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico race in Italy in March.

"I think (Tyler) is the best sprinter of his generation—apart from Cavendish," Jonathan Vaughters, the manager of Farrar's Garmin-Slipstream, told The Associated Press by telephone.

But on Wednesday, Farrar timed his run a bit too late. It was his third top-3 finish of the Tour.

"Maybe he's not quite as fast, and he needs to figure out how to be a little bit more intelligent," Vaughters said. "And we need to figure out how to be little bit better as a team."

With the win, Cavendish took possession of the green jersey as best sprinter while Rinaldo Nocentini of Italy held on to the overall leader's yellow jersey.

"We're all just trying to figure out how to get round Cavendish," Vaughters said.

Cavendish also tied British rider Barry Hoban's tally of eight Tour stage wins—he got four last year but failed to complete the Tour.

"You can talk all day about how great you are at the dinner table," the 24-year-old Cavendish said. "Success is the biggest motivation for anyone."

Armstrong, meanwhile, finished safely in the main pack in 54th place and remains in third place overall, with his Astana teammate Contador crossing the

line in the 43rd spot, and still in second place overall.

The general classification stayed the same, with Nocentini leading Contador by six seconds. Armstrong, who did not stop for reporters waiting by his team bus, trails by eight seconds.

"My favorite to win the Tour de France is Contador," said Vaughters, a former teammate of Armstrong on the U.S. Postal team in the late 1990s.

Thursday's 12th stage is a 131.4-mile trek from Tonnerre to Vittel featuring six small hills and could again favor sprinters, giving Cavendish the opportunity for a fifth stage win—and Farrar another chance to beat him—before the race heads into a medium mountain stage on Friday.

Armstrong's rivalry with Contador could be reignited on Friday, with a small opportunity for an attack on one tough climb up the Col du Platzerwasel. However, such a run likely be more effective in Sunday's 15th stage—which features a tough uphill slog on a category 1 climb up to Verbier.

Early in Wednesday's stage, several riders fell after two early crashes—including Nocentini—and gave Belgian rider Johan Van Summeren and Marcin Sapa of Poland the opportunity to break away after about 18.6 miles.

"I was in a fall, but nothing too serious. I didn't hurt myself," Nocentini said. "We crashed after about 30 kilometers (18.6 miles). A lot of riders fell, me also. But I managed to

get back up and finish calmly."

They were eventually caught by the chasing pack, led by the Team Columbia-High Road riders of Cavendish's team, about 3 miles from the finish.

The Columbia team worked well together at the front, just as they did on Tuesday, to get Cavendish in the best position to attack in the closing stages. But Farrar pushed hard in the final meters and almost caught the British rider.

Cavendish had mixed feelings about equaling Hoban's record.

"He's a nice guy, he talks a lot to me. He's given me some advice," Cavendish said. "But he's also said some things in the press that offended me a little bit. I don't know, it's nice to be able to be (mentioned) in the same sentence of Barry Hoban, anyway."

Mayweather still quiet on injury, but ready to go



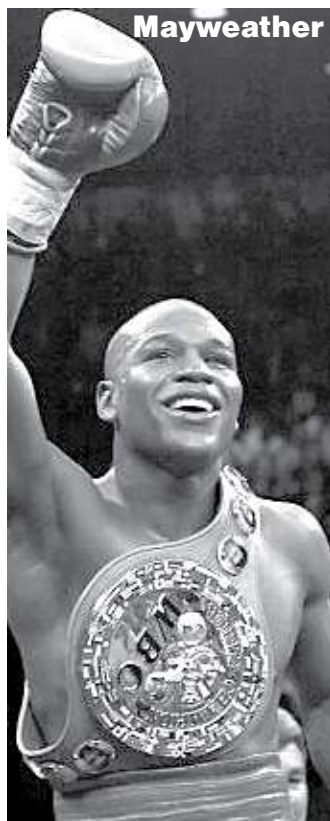
OAKLAND, California (AP)—Although Floyd Mayweather

Jr. still isn't saying exactly how he injured his ribs training for his comeback fight, he has plenty to say about nearly everything else.

Mayweather kicked off the publicity campaign for his Sept. 19 fight against Juan Manuel Marquez on Tuesday by dismissing those who believe Manny Pacquiao is boxing's best overall fighter, ripping Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum, and confirming an improved relationship with his father.

Yet the undefeated former pound-for-pound king still won't give specifics about his abrupt injury last month, which forced the fight's postponement from July 18 and immediately led to suspicions of skullduggery.

Many boxing observers specu-



lated Mayweather wanted time to line up a big-money bout with Pacquiao for his first fight since December 2007. Mayweather (39-0, 25 KOs) insists he was injured in a "freak accident" in training, but won't say much else.

"Believe me, it wasn't a small guy that done it, but it didn't even come from sparring," Mayweather said. "When it happened, I tried to work through it. I was sparring for a while, but then it happened again. I said, 'You know what, I can't try to be a superhero. I've got to take time off and let it heal.' I'd never tell exactly what happened. I just had a rib injury."

Others wondered whether Mayweather thought he needed more time to prepare for the veteran star Marquez (50-4-1, 37 KOs)—or even whether Mayweather was disappointed by reportedly lackluster ticket sales for the fight, which Golden

Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer insists wasn't the case.

Marquez, who's training in Mexico City, believes Mayweather's story about the injury, saying he used the extra time to take his children on vacation.

"I'm sure that there's solid evidence," Marquez said through a translator. "There should be some paperwork from the doctor, and I'm sure he presented the paperwork that was needed. I was calm. I'm fine. Things happen for a reason."

Mayweather confirmed discussions with Arum and Top Rank about facing Pacquiao, but didn't specify whether they occurred before or after the rib injury. Mayweather ripped Arum for demanding a 50-50 split of the purse for Pacquiao, the undersized Filipino star whose recent run of electric victories has elevated him to boxing's top echelon.

"If he wouldn't be so greedy,

that fight would happen," Mayweather said of Arum, his own promoter until Mayweather bought out his contract to promote himself.

Mayweather resumed training two weeks ago, but has limited himself to basketball and calisthenics. He plans to get back in the boxing gym this week.

He's also spending more time with Floyd Mayweather Sr., the respected boxing trainer who molded his son into a champion before a furious family split several years ago. A family friend got the Mayweathers together for dinner this summer, and the two are back on friendly terms.

"He's teaching his oldest grandson how to box, and that's a good thing," Mayweather said. "He's coming to the birthday parties of his granddaughters. He's spending more time getting to know his grandkids. My kids are the future of the Mayweather family and of the Mayweather brand. I feel our family is stronger if we stay together."

Mayweather, Marquez and

their promoters curiously won't reveal the exact weight limit for the fight, saying only it's a welterweight bout—which could mean anything from 141 pounds to the 147-pound (64 to 67 kilograms) class limit. De La Hoya claimed the mystery is designed to get people to watch the weigh-in on Sept. 18.

Marquez has never fought at more than 135 pounds (61 kilograms), only moving up from 130 (59) recently. Mayweather says he's already close to 147 pounds (67 kilograms), meaning the few extra pounds (kilos) won't be tough to lose.

Although Mayweather Promotions is closely aligned with Golden Boy, Mayweather also needed two Golden Boy partners during the conference call.

He blasted Sugar Shane Mosley as a cheater for using steroids, which Mosley says he did unwittingly. Mayweather also speculated De La Hoya "was just in it for the payday" when he lost to Pacquiao last year.

HEO

From Page 36

steam in the second set, allowing the former to cruise to a 6-0 shutout win.

Franks is ranked No. 163 in the

world and ruled the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji. Heo was on the same tournament and incidentally played against Franks in the quarterfinals.

Heo defeated New Zealand's Ari Davis, 6-4, 6-4, in the Round

of 16 of the Fiji tournament, ending his two-game losing skid against the Kiwi player.

In the quarterfinals, Heo duelled the top seed Franks and the CNMI junior netter lost in straight sets, 3-6, 6-7 (6-8).

After the tournament in Dar-

win, Heo will return to Fiji to prepare for two more tournaments there. The CNMI netter will be leading the North Team against the East and West squads in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, which will run from Aug. 17 to 21. Two days af-

ter the POJC, Heo will be seeing action in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Goodman Fielder Tennis Centre.

Heo's last tournament this summer will be in South Korea where he will compete in the YanGu International Junior

Championships Week 1 (Sept. 1 to 6) and Week 2 (Sept. 8 to 13) at KangWon-Do.

The Marianas High School student is spending his summer vacation competing in off-island events to earn ITF ranking points.

UPSETS

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time in the semifinals.

Mike Olaitiman gave the X-Terminators the spark both on offense and defense, while Julian Daprosa nailed successive long jumpers to help Advance stun Fiesta. Ritual Rocyl was also a force on both ends of the court, drilling 21 markers and making crucial defensive stops. Rodel Apostol and Ding Luna picked up loose balls and important rebounds and also had their fair share on X-Terminators' offense.

While it seemed X-Terminations can't do anything wrong, Fiesta, which waited for almost two weeks before playing their first game in the playoffs, was

in disarray in the closing minutes of the third and continued to struggle in the fourth. Fiesta threw the ball several times, missed a couple of free throws in the stretch, let Olaitiman and company breakaway for a bundle of fastbreak layups, pulled up for forced shots, and missed a couple of easy baskets.

Advance's finals stint was almost derailed by rain in the 2:31 mark of fourth quarter. After Elmer Esdreton made his first free throw and cut the X-Terminator's lead to two, 75-77, league organizers halted the game as it started to rain. It took about 20 minutes before the game resumed and Esdreton was already cold, missing his second free throw.

With the floor still a bit wet, both teams played helter-skelter

basketball for several seconds before Olaitiman gave Advance a breather, connecting on a layup, 79-77, with 1:48 left on the clock.

Esdreton made up for his earlier miss with a pair of free throws to keep Fiesta in the game, but later committed two fouls and a couple of turnovers, sending Advance players to the free throw line.

Olaitiman made two trips at the foul line and tallied two free throws, while Ritual who scored underneath on Apostol's feed after Esdreton's pair of free throws, split his charities to give the X-Terminators an 82-79 lead, with 25 seconds left in the game.

Esdreton's foul on Ritual was his fifth, sending the former to Fiesta's bench and

prompting Advance supporters to start to celebrate.

Olaitiman added another charity after Fiesta lost the ball anew for an 83-79 lead. Fiesta made one final desperate move with Ariel Jinang pulling up from downtown and drawing a foul from Ed Relata. However, referee Fyke Sabino ruled Jinang stepped on the line thus should be given only two free throws.

Jinang had a split and with only eight seconds left on the clock, Olaitiman threw the killer punch that knocked Fiesta out of the championship game, canning two free throws.

Olaitiman, who was held to 10 points in the first half, finished with 29 points, drilling 13 of them in the third quarter to lead Advance's recovery.

Fiesta, which was in the driver's seat at halftime, 41-36, behind Ferdie De La Torre's consecutive baskets, led by as much as eight in the third period, 54-46, as De La Torre was still on target with his banked shots. However, Olaitiman broke loose midway in the third and put Advance in the lead, 65-62, entering the fourth quarter.

Fiesta was then limited to a field goal in the first 2:30 of the fourth, while Daprosa made six straight points, connecting on jumpers from almost exactly the same spot [left key] to keep the X-Terminators' momentum.

Numerous miscues and ill-advised shots in the last two minutes sealed the doom for Fiesta. Esdreton still top-scored for Fiesta with 27 points, while De La

Torre chipped in a personal best 26 points, despite having limited touches in the fourth period.

First Game

MBI 66 – Nonato 18, Trajano 14, Sese 11, Alvarez 11, Barbo 6, Achas 4, Alvarez 2.

G4S 59 – Guiab 21, Banatasa 14, Sison 12, Basa 9, Chavez 2, Urrea 2, Larioza 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-8, 31-38, 45-43, 66-59.

Second Game

Advance 87 – Olaitiman 29, Ritual 23, Daprosa 14, Apostol 11, Luna 6, Relata 2.

Fiesta 80 – Esdreton 27, De La Torre 26, Jinang 15, Salazar 8, Ong 2, Rodriguez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 36-41, 65-62, 87-80.

KILL

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"Despite the fact that Bill is giving up almost 100 lbs. in his match-up against Davis, for those of you who know Bill and have followed some of his bouts, facing fighters much bigger and heavier than him isn't anything new for him. Bill is notorious for doing well against opponents who are bigger and larger and outweigh him," he said.

And a quick look at the fight history of Saures, who weighs 220 lbs. and sports a 6-3 win-loss record, seems to prove Alvarez right.

In his first MMA match ever in Trench Warz II: Caged In, for instance, Saures fought and defeated "Bigg" Herman Villagomez who was 300 lbs.

The heavyweight bout went three rounds until Villagomez

verbally tapped out due to a strained back muscle.

After winning against a more conventional opponent in the 215-lb. "Suicide" Cliff Masga in Trench Warz III: Commotion (second round on strikes), Saures took the biggest fight of his career when he faced then PXC heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong.

Although he lost by tap out in the third round against the 230-lb. Guamanian in Preba Hao, the match showed that Saures was willing to face anyone regardless of skill and size.

In Trench Warz VI: Mass Destruction, Saures got the better of 290-lb. Kyle "The Taliban" Kaipan via ground and pound in the first round and proved that he can also be comfortable down on the mat as he is upright.

Next up for Saures was 220-lb. Neil "The Lion Heart" Taisacan in Trench Warz VII: The

Invasion. The promising stand-up fight, however, was cut short when Taisacan had to retire after sustaining injury to his eyes.

His most recent fight was in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation which saw him took on 275-lb. Tony "Xcalibur" Nekaifes, where Saures again showed his ground and pound technique en route to a third round win.

"Kill" Bill's biggest asset is his heart and determination and natural athleticism. He uses his speed and stamina to wear down his opponents and I'm sure his strategy will be the same for his fight against Davis," said Alvarez.

Davis, for his part, stands 6'4" and tips the scales at 315 lbs.—no wonder they gave him moniker.

Alvarez said despite his height and heft, the Da Crew 671 fighter is also very athletic. He noted that the Guamanian has big, heavy, and fast hands that he uses to knockout his op-

ponents early.

"Most of his fights actually never go the distance and usually end in a KO! I don't know too much of his history in MMA but I do know he is very dangerous and very strong as well. If Bill doesn't get KO'd early on, then he stands a fighting chance against his much bigger opponent," he said.

Alvarez added that the Saures-Davis pairing in Trench Warz X is the second attempt at a match-up between the two, as the two combatants were originally set to face off in Guam in Fury Fighting Islands in 2006 but Davis got injured and the fight was cancelled.

The Saures-Davis bout will serve as one of the appetizers for the main event between Saipan's Kevin "The Big Hit" Fital of Marianas Elite and Guam's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong of THUGCOP.

The other scheduled fights are the following:

■ Team Lockdown's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao vs. Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas in the 240-lb. super heavyweight division semi main event;

■ Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug vs. Team Countershot's Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes in the 145-lb. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Tony "Rush" Reyes vs. Tanapag Beach Badd Boiz/Team Zogai's Ryan Gardee in the 140-lb. division;

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas vs. Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu in the 130-b. division;

■ Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai vs. Team Psycho MMA's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in the 190-lb. division;

■ Team Subdue's "Infamous" Ray Apiag vs. Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible"

Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

■ Team Subdue's Gilbert "Guamianiac" Meno vs. Team Zogai's Shane "Insane" Camacho in the 180-lb. division.

Chargualaf of Team Countershot, meanwhile, will duke it out against Maitai "The Charger" Charley of Marianas Elite in the evening's special kickboxing bout.

Tickets for Trench Warz X: Collision will go on sale soon. General admission costs \$25 and VIP is \$35. Alvarez said doors will open at 7pm with the fights starting at 8pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
LOCAL SCORES		
BELAU MASTERS STANDINGS		
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Peliliu	9	2
Salty Boys	8	3
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Choll Aces	5	6
Kayangel Angels	4	7
Kagman Jack	2	9

Matsumoto tops CWGA July tourney

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Aya Matsumoto won her first CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly title after shooting a net 72 last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

Matsumoto actually shot a gross score of 83 after going 40 and 43 in the front and back nine, respectively.

Her score turned into the July tourney's best when her USGA handicap of 11 was deducted. Matsumoto actually finished tied with Ukita Terue but beat her on a scorecard tiebreak.

Terue needed 96 strokes to complete the 18 holes—46 in the front and 50 in the back. However, her total wound up net 72 after her tourney high 24 USGA handicap was subtracted.

The six-handicap Shiori Onoue came in third with her 74 net built around a gross score of 80 (40-39).

Matsumoto was visibly overjoyed after winning her first ever championship in the CWGA monthly competition.

"This is my first time to win at CWGA. Laolao Bay Golf is the most challenging course for me. I'm so glad to win. I think that it's so wonderful to play with players who have an official USGA handicap. It means that this is a fair game," she said.

Matsumoto also encouraged her fellow lady golfers to continue to persevere in learning the sport.

"We need to continue to study some more rules, etiquette, and manners.



Participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association July tournament pose for a photo after their competition last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

As one of the founders of CWGA, I'm so proud that members are very eager to learn and to improve their golf game," she said.

The businesswoman said she needs to improve her game so she could compete at a higher level in the 2009 Tournament of Champions next month.

"For my golf game, I suffered from putting stroke for a long time. I hope I can fix it before TOC. I also would like to thank my husband for allowing me to play golf even during these tough economic times," she said.

A total of 18 lady players took part in the monthly CWGA tourney. The participants, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Masayo Miyamoto (75), Sherlyn Jones (78), Dolores Yamagishi (79), Eun Ae Chang (79),

Kyung A. Yang (80), Bennet Seman (80), Noriko Togawa (82), Yuko Togawa (82), Kyung Ran Seo (83), Kimiko Abe (84), Lou Kim (88), Lorraine Babauta (91), Terry Attao (108 gross), and In Jeong Young (92).

The latter two are new members of CWGA and have yet to given USGA handicaps.

For more information about CWGA and its monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

IT&E Dolphins seal Belau pennant

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

IT&E Dolphins secured the pennant in the 2009 Belau Masters Slow-pitch Softball League after whipping Choll Aces, 11-1, last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The Dolphins finished the regular season with a 10-2 record, a win ahead of second placer Peleliu (9-2). Even if Peleliu wins its last game this Sunday, the Dolphins are still the pennant champion, as it beat the former twice in

the regular season.

Leftfielder Jack Diaz was only 1-for-4 at bat, but made two RBIs, hitting one-run double in the third inning and making a sacrifice fly in the fourth. Juan Igitol also had only one hit, but his single in the third drove two runners home.

With the win, the Dolphins will be seeded first in the playoffs and are likely to face Lancheros (7-4) in a best-of-three playoff series. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the next round.

Choll Aces, which faltered in its bid to force at least a tie for fourth place,

scored their lone run in the second inning with Felix Remoket making it home on Robin Secharmidal's single.

Salty Boys 13, Peleliu 9

The Salty Boys strengthened their hold to the No. 3 spot in the team standings after edging Peleliu, 13-9.

The Salty Boys improved to an 8-3 slate.

Shortstop Luis Ngiraikeleau led Salty Boys' offense, going 4-for-4 at bat. He had back-to-back homers, drilling a two-run roundtripper in the fifth and a three-run homer in the sixth inning.

Third baseman Leo Bobai and outfielder Steve Brel both went 3-for-4 at the plate for Salty Boys and also made three runs apiece.

Peleliu boosted its chances for the pennant when it led Salty Boys after four complete innings, 9-3. However, Salty Boys shut out Peleliu in the last three innings with pitcher Donald Flores allowing only two hits, walking two, and striking out three batters, to spoil Peleliu's pennant bid.

Angels 9, Kagman Jack 4

In a no-bearing game, the Kayangel Angels topped Kagman Jacks, 9-4.

First baseman Dennis Ngirchongor went 3-for-3 at bat for the Angels and had two RBIs. Centerfielder Ores Olkeriil also had two RBIs, as his single in the fourth inning brought Ernest Kanai and Wally Emul home.

The win improved the Angels' record to 4-7, but still they could not make it to the playoffs. The Angeles are at the No. 6 spot, two games ahead of last placer Kagman Jack, which holds a 2-9 slate.

3 teams win debuts in INC caging

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The Iglesia Ni Cristo Sportsfest 2009 Basketball League kicked off last Sunday with three teams debuting with victories at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

Area 3 led the opening-day winners with the Ajoste siblings lifting their team to a 71-64 triumph over Area 4. Joining Area 1 in the winner column at the early stage of the tournament were Area 5 and Area 6, who downed Area 2, 58-46, and Area 1, 47-40, respectively.

Brothers Omar and Bryan Ajoste top-scored for Area 3, notching 21 points apiece.

Area 3 held Area 4 to a single-digit production in the first period to seize control of the game and led at 16-9, after 10 minutes of play. Area 4 hung in there, as Omar and Bryan traded baskets to foil Area 4's repeated comeback attempts.

Jeff Galvez led Area 4's losing cause, drilling 18 markers, while Rey Alfonso added 17.

In the second game, Area 5 drew double figures contribution from four players to cruise to a 12-point win over Area 2.

Larry Serrano fired 17 points, Bernard Estoque and a certain Dizon chipped in 12 apiece, and Lilio Tipples contributed 10 for Area 5's balance offense.

Area 2 had only one player scoring in double digits with Joey Siriban nailing 17 markers.

Area 2 was still in the game after the third period, trailing by only two, 32-34, but it failed to neutralize Serrano and Estoque in the fourth, allowing Area 5 to pull away.

In Game 3, Area 6 got contributions from every player it fielded in the game to outclass Area 1. Area 6 listed 26 players in its roster and had 13 of them making it to the scoreboard.

Game 1

Area 3 71 – O. Ajoste 21, B. Ajoste 21, A. Ajoste 7, Guzman 6, Sanchez 5, Manangan 5, Asuncion 4, Jovelo 2, Labrador 2.

Area 4 64 – Galvez 18, Alfonso 17, Torres 13, Dizon 10, Asedillo 4, Salvani 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 34-32, 49-43, 71-64.

Game 2

Area 5 58 – Serrano 17, Dizon 12, Estoque 12, Tipples 10, Olivos 5, Sahagun 2.

Area 2 46 – Siriban 17, Belen 7, Austria 6, Domine 6, Presidente 3, Villacrusis 3, Corpuz 2, Armia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 24-20, 34-32, 58-46.

Game 3

Area 6 47 – Mortes 9, Serrano 6, Koh 6, Flores 5, Birdman 4, Almojuela 3, Calvo 2, S. Yumul 2, Francisco 2, Villafuerte 2, Fabiana 2, Naval 2, M. Yumul 2.

Area 1 40 – Pineda 9, Gezun 8, Leo-mo, Fedrizo 4, Manabat 4, Ambalon 4, Lacsina 2, Reyes 2, Bergonia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-11, 31-21, 37-27, 47-40.

Yo' Mama aims for win No. 2 in Roque fundraiser



Yo' Mama will go for back-to-back victories, as the second fundraising tournament for former Saipan Little League Baseball statistician Roque Celis begins tonight at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Yo' Mama ruled the first fundraiser last month after surviving Ur Balls in the finals. Ur Balls won Game 1, 16-6, before succeeding homers from Byron Kaipat, Joey Dela Cruz, B.J. Attao, Toi Celis, and Ray Cepeda lifted Yo' Mama to an 11-8 triumph in the deciding Game 2.

Janece Camacho, who is coordinating the fundraiser with Roy Celis, said Yo' Mama will be back to defend its title in the weekend tournaments. Ur Ball is also expected to return at the Capital Hill Ballfield, along with eight other teams, namely Na Hurts, Laly 4, SaiPal, Natibu, Karidat, Calikano, Kanaka, and Pac-Chain.

This weekend's tournament will be

a double-elimination affair with games today starting at 6pm. Saturday matches will begin at 3pm, while Sunday's games will start at 9am.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used for the medical expenses of Celis, who was brought to the hospital in the Philippines after he was paralyzed in May.

Celis is a regular volunteer for softball and baseball tournaments in the CNMI. He helped out in keeping statistics for the Big, Senior, and Junior League divisions in the last 2009 SLLB season. He also managed various softball teams and led them to victories.

Meanwhile, Camacho said those who failed to make the tournament, but still want to give donation are still welcome.

For more information or to give your donation, contact Camacho at 789-7570 or Roy Celis at 285-9479. (**Rose-lyn B. Monroyo**)

Yo'Mama's Jerry Ayuyu delivers a pitch against Ur Balls during their championship game in the first fundraising tournament for former Saipan Little League Baseball statistician Roque Celis last month at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Polanda Yamada, seen here throwing to first base in a local tournament at the Dan Dandan Elementary School Ballfield, plays for Kayangel Angels, who downed Kagman Jack in last weekend's Belau masters softball league.





'Running out of time,' Favre steps up workouts

Brett Favre acknowledged he's "running out of time" to decide whether he'll play for the Minnesota Vikings this season.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Matsumoto tops CWGA July tourney

Aya Matsumoto won her first CNMI Women's Golf Association July monthly title after shooting a net 72 last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heo wins debut in Aussie tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo survived his baptism of fire in the 2009 Northern Territory Junior ITF International, which is being played in Darwin, Australia.

Heo was paired against Land Down Under's Michael Georgiev in the first round last Tuesday and needed extra games to pull off a 7-5 win in the first set. Heo then completed a straight sets victory after posting a much easier 6-3 triumph in the second set.

The CNMI bet was then pitted against a much tougher foe in tournament No. 3 seed Barrett Franks of New Zealand.

Franks, who drew a bye in the first round and Heo slugged it out in the first set of their second round match before the Kiwi netter nailed a 6-4 victory. After engaging Franks in a close game in the first set, Heo lost

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here going for a powerful forehand, won his first round match in the 2009 Northern Territory Junior ITF International in Darwin, Australia.

Upsets galore in Shirley's semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Upsets marked the semifinal round of the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, allowing underdogs Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and Advance X-Terminators to arrange their title duel.

MBI started the theme of the night, stunning pennant champion G4S in the first semifinals game, 66-59, last Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan. Advance secured the second finals berth after pulling off a similar upset over the second-ranked Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 87-80.

The best-of-three title se-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI's Alvin Alvarez, right, is fouled by G4S' Orlando Soriano during their semifinal game in the Shirley's caging last Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ries will begin tonight at 8pm, while Fiesta and G4S will collide for the consolation game at 6:30pm.

A slow-paced MBI game moved G4S out of its rhythm, helping the former seal the first finals seat.

R.J. Nonano, who scored 45 points in MBI's first playoff win over Shirley's last week, was held to only 18 points. However, he made 10 of them in the fourth quarter when MBI was completely in control of the game. He went 6-for-8 from the foul line with his free throws in the last two minutes preserving MBI's surprised victory.

Advanced, which dropped three of its last five games in the regular season and lost to Fiesta twice, delivered big

See UPSETS on Page 34

'Kill' Bill looks to slay 'Ogre'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's not David vs. Goliath but Saipan's "Kill" Bill Saures will be giving up as much as 100 lbs. when he takes on Guam's Mike "Ogre" Davis in the Big Brawl of Trench Warz X: Collision

set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort

The overwhelming weight difference, however, will not be a problem for the Team X X T R E M A fighter, according to Trench Tech president and matchmaker Cuki Alvarez.

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Davis



Saures

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Critical mass

Like it or not, the CNMI uses Guam as a benchmark to measure itself in team sports. Pure demographics give the southern Marianas a substantial advantage over the Northern Marianas. Taking a ratio of resident populations, the odds are roughly 7:1 in their favor. We don't really care, of course.

Baseball is the only team sport where we usually seem to have a decent chance of winning. The Oceania Tournament showed that our men's and women's basketball teams are behind Guam in terms of development. The size difference on the court wasn't that much but the difference in level of play was all too apparent.

Contrast that with the youth baseball teams that went to the Asia Pacific tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia. Saipan beat Guam two out of three games and took one championship. Pretty good for a little place.

Why is it we can compete with Guam in baseball but not basketball?

The simple answer is program development. Little league baseball attracts 400 players every year starting with age nine. If you are a kid on Saipan you have to wait until you are 15 to be able to play in a basketball league.

Each year a few dozen baseball-playing fathers come out to coach. Basketball has basically four or five people running everything.

Baseball here has the critical mass of human resources to not only sustain itself but maintain a fairly high level of play for its population size. We are seeing a trickle of our former Little Leaguers go on to play college ball in the States. This week Jonathan Salas received a full scholarship from Western Nevada to play baseball. I am not aware of anyone growing up in the CNMI as a teenager who later was offered a college basketball scholarship.

While basketball is a popular youth sport, without that critical mass of volunteers it's hard to envision substantial progress. But try we will.

True, the CNMI women's team is the defending champion in the Micronesian Games after beating Palau in the MHS gym in 2006. Guam did not participate then but is expected to send a team to Palau for the Games similar to the one that captured a bronze medal in the Oceania tournament and beat our national team by 23 points.

Our women's team should be stronger and more experienced than the one we fielded in Oceania, especially with the addition of Chelsea Ruluked who is playing in the mainland. We should bring back a medal. Actually, I'm not too worried about them. I'm more concerned about the men's team.

After crushing the CNMI by 37 points last month, the Guam men's team will be the odds-on favorite for the gold medal in Palau. The investment they have made in sending coaches to the States for training is paying dividends. All of their youth leagues are creating a deeper talent pool than we can match these days.

Last weekend, the Guam Major League champions thumped the Saipan Major League champion Rangers 10-1. Although the Rangers were missing several key players, that game means Guam will be contending for gold in Palau. Hopefully, the CNMI will be bolstered by former Saipan Little League players such as Salas, Justin Alexander, Swayze Guerrero, and A.J. Allen who are not only playing in the mainland, but excelling.

If only we had Little League basketball...oh well, we'll try anyway.